



The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

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THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO LIFE, TRAVEL & ENTERTAINMENT IN ICELAND

IN THE ISSUE Issue 11 • 2011 • July 29 - August 11

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Photo: Hörður Sveinsson - www.hordursveinsson.com

Go Drive Around Iceland!

Anna's 1st Editorial



In case you were wondering... You're seeing an unfamiliar face on this page because our seasoned editor Haukur S. Magnússon is out driving around the country in one of those fancy Happy Campers campervans this week. And you can read all about the fun places he's been visiting in our special twelve-page travel pullout inside!

I always tell people that if they have one week in Iceland that they should most definitely rent a car and explore the island on their own, and try to spend the nights at small farmhouses in the middle of nowhere. Now, I suppose it would also be pretty cool to drive around in a campervan with a solar-powered refrigerator, sink, stove, and bed. It's probably only missing a shower. But that shouldn't be a problem, as Iceland has over 130 swimming pools, and another thing I always tell people to do in Iceland is to go swimming.

Then again, you could also opt to forego showering for a week. In the olden days (not that long ago) Icelanders only showered once or twice a year... which reminds me of an Icelander my fam-

ily once hosted in California, where I grew up. That guy brought with him two pairs of socks to last him three months and they were strategically black socks to mask their filth. He didn't shower very regularly either. We also once hosted an Icelander who went out biking, bought a big boom box, and then biked back home with it, but lost his way and wound up riding on a freeway. Needless to say he was picked up by the police and given a ride home. I'm not kidding. But it's actually not so strange considering that Iceland's main thoroughway Route 1, which circles the island, is a simple a two-lane road.

But I've gone off on a tangent, as The Grapevine sometimes allows itself to do. One of the things you'll notice about The Grapevine is that it isn't your typical travel magazine. While liberties are taken to have fun with it, it's also a space where people write critically about important issues that should interest tourists and locals alike...and that's what I really wanted to reflect upon here.

Given the recent tragedy in Norway, I've been thinking about how important it is to be critical and

We at the Grapevine were shocked, saddened, enraged and disgusted by the terrorist attack in Oslo, Norway last week. Adding to the pain were how some of our colleagues in the international press chose to presume the attack was the work of Muslims, and tenaciously clung to trying to attribute at least partial blame to Muslims, even after the attacker was revealed to be a racist Islamophobe. If we are to learn anything from this incident, it is that the hatred and intolerance in Europe needs to be addressed rather than ignored. Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg demonstrated this deftly when he first spoke publicly of the attack, assuring his people that the ideals of equality, democracy, and personal liberty shall not be tainted by acts of destruction. Our deepest, most sincere sympathies go out to the people of Norway. Know that you are all in our thoughts, as we face the future of Europe together.

conscientious of the evils in our world. Though it's easy to live one's life removed from and indifferent to the injustices in the world—like genocide, racism, sexism, homophobia, poverty, and corruption—it makes us complicit in the evil.

To quote Camus: "The plague bacillus never dies or disappears for good... it can lie dormant for years and years in furniture and linen-chests...and that perhaps the day would come when...it would rouse up its rats again and send them forth to die in a happy city."

Although Camus warns that crisis can strike any ordinary town, like it did in Oran, he predicts that, like the people of Oran, many apathetic people will be nonetheless surprised to find that they are not immune to crisis.

Now on that note you should read our interview with Hörður Torfason, Iceland's first openly gay man who helped lead the Pots and Pans Revolution—a model citizen who refuses to accept injustice.

TRACK OF THE ISSUE

Ofvitarnir 0 0 0

Download at www.grapevine.is

Grapevine is glad today! And you know why? Yes, it's because Grapevine's favourite new Icelandic rock band, Ofvitarnir, has finally released an album! And because that album, 'Stephen Hawking/Steven Tyler' is just as great as the first tracks we gleamed at shows and on the internet promised it would be. Truly a day to rejoice!

Seriously, we've been playing that record all day, all night ever since it was released a couple of weekends ago. It's a style of music we haven't heard with local bands for a while, and it's all done with a passion that's too often lacking.

Who are Ofvitarnir? You surely will know some of them. Notorious multitasker Þórir Georg (of My Summer As A Salvation Soldier, Þórir Georg, Fighting Shit, Gavin Portland, Deathmetal Supersquad, etc., etc. fame) leads the band on vocals and guitar, joined by mysterious vixen Júlía on bass and powerhaus kitbanger Fannar Örn on drums. The trio plays a heavy, melodic and grunge-y sort of punk rock that brings to mind a lot of early '90s alt. heroes like Fugazi, Pixies and Dinosaur Jr. (and even newbies like Wavves!) on first listen. Some of it's happy music, some is depressing, doomy gloom, but all of it's pretty great for a listen.

Download the record's immediately catchiest track '0 0 0' from www.Grapevine.is before heading over to their record label's website, www.pbppunk.com, where you can download the entire album for free (all the label's releases are available for free download actually, but the label—which is probably themselves if we know the crew correctly—encourages you to buy 'em at places like Geisladiskabúð Valda). Enjoy!



THE LAMBURGER

120 g Lamburger (lamb), garlic grilled mushrooms, cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, red onion, sauce Béarnaise and french fries.

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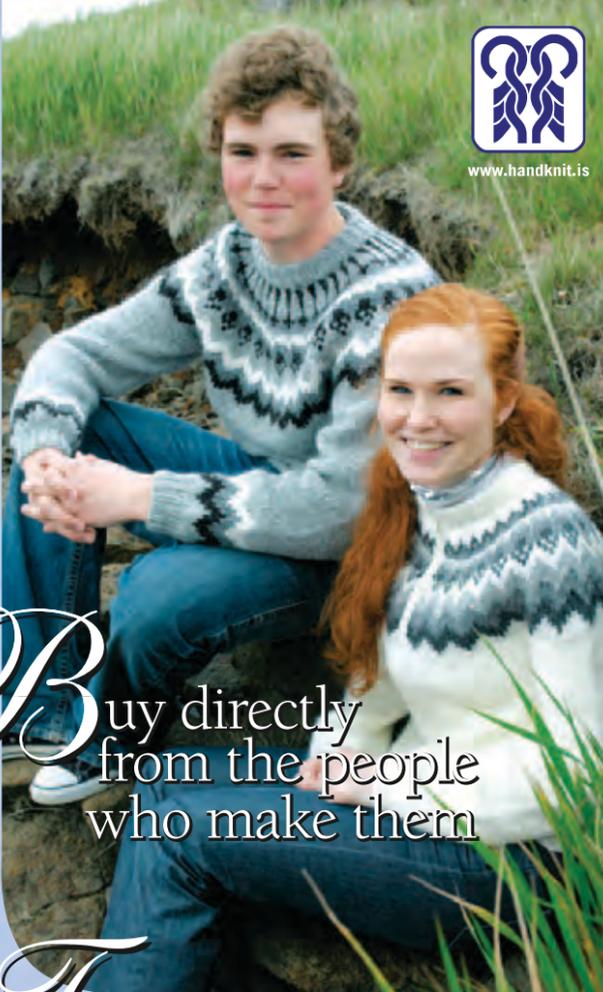


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Did you hear that? Write in and complain about something (in an admirable way), win a gourmet feast at one of Reykjavik's best? **THIS IS THE DEAL OF THE CENTURY IS WHAT IT IS!**

What's in a 'lobster feast'? Well, one has to assume that it has lobster-a-plenty. Is there more? Probably, but still... Gourmet feast? Wow! **DON'T PANIC** if your letter wasn't picked **AWESOME LETTER**. There's always next month!

Now, if you're in the market for free goodies next month, write us some sort of letter. Give us your worst: letters@grapevine.is

MOST AWESOME LETTER:

Dear Mr. Gíslason

I feel compelled to write to you after experiencing an extraordinarily disappointing dinner and evening at Dill last Friday.

After reading the feature article on your restaurant in the Grapevine I reserved a table for 3, one week ahead of time, to take our Icelandic host out for a fabulous meal as a thank you for all the generosity that she had shown us over the previous 2 weeks.

When we arrived for our 8pm booking we were given a table for 2 near the door with an extra setting squeezed onto the table. The extra seat was placed so that its back was facing the window. Clearly the most prominent feature in the layout of your restaurant is the grand view of the city that your dining room offers. Our host insisted that she take the awkwardly positioned seat. Having booked one week ahead it is very odd that we were first, not given a proper table for 3 and second, that our table was so poorly situated. As this dinner was a thank you to her, we were not off to a good start.

Next, before offering us a menu or explaining how the dinner would proceed we were told that we would be starting with champagne to accompany our first and second course. I have to say that yours is the first restaurant that I have been to that dictated what I was going to drink and eat – no choice! I have been to restaurants where the

chef offers a menu of his own design that changes daily depending on his own creative desires and the quality of ingredients available, but here I felt that the "package" was being shoved down my throat.

The miniscule teaspoon size mix of a layered sauce-like concoction with herbs delivered as a whole first course was beyond absurdity, as was the second so-called course that was not much bigger in size, but included the 2 smallest shrimp I have ever seen in my life. Our friend is allergic to shrimp, so her plate was taken away and the offending twosome was removed. I find this a very interesting way to deal with customers that have food allergies. They just get less.

Then the menu arrived. We finally had some say in what we were to pay to eat! Fair enough, there were 3 course combinations available, but when we asked for a drink combination different than what was being recommended, we had the feeling that we had been bad children and we would be punished. We were punished – our glasses of wine were poured noticeably shorter than those of the tables beside us.

A word about our waiter, I would expect that a restaurant of this quality would hire only confident, experienced waiters. Our waiter seemed to be in training. He was nervous, and his hand shook as he poured our glasses.

None of the courses were particularly fantastic or satisfying. The combinations

were overly complicated and as a result, many of the subtle flavours were lost. We were forced to rely too heavily on a soberly delivered list of ingredients announced at the beginning of each course to know (and it seems to be impressed by) what we were indeed eating. It was too difficult to get all of the different parts of each serving on a fork or spoon to enjoy the full force of the intended combination of flavours. The #14 cheese that was buried in the mix of one of the courses was completely lost. A thin slice at the side of the plate, that we could cut from to add to our mix, would have at least allowed us to appreciate its uniqueness.

In summation, the whole experience was uncomfortable, unsatisfying and unenjoyable at a very inflated cost. There was more attitude served up than good food. The true beauty and sensuality that should be the experience of a wonderful meal in a wonderful setting was totally lacking.

Sincerely

Lyn Carter

Dear Lyn Carter,

we're sorry that you had such a miserable dining experience at Dill. Maybe you'll like Tapas better.

Hi,

can I have the gourmet meal because my friend's a vegan so I could eat her lobster too. Finland loves lobsters, Kisse.

Dear Kisse,

would you take your vegan friend out for lobster? And then eat hers too? That sounds far more gluttonous than awesome!

For the past 3 years I've been pretty into paranormal activity. I've spoken to dozens of people who have been visited by spirits, or seen ghosts, but one conversation I had with an Icelander left me bewildered. I'm an American (and proud of it), and I don't believe in silly things like "The Easter Bunny", "Santa Claus", or "God". However, I do believe in spirits. When a human leaves the physical body, he/she enters a spiritual world. Once the spiritual world is entered, the spirit has a CHOICE whether or not it wants to make contact with other physical beings. I've noticed this typically happens in cases where there is some sort of unfin-

ished business (murders, car accidents, suicides, overdoses, etc). Now, to be clear, this whole concept of "evil demons", "angels", "exorcisms", and "Jehovah's Witness" makes absolutely no sense because where did these creatures come from to begin with? They can't exist in the spiritual world if there was no physical human in the beginning. And this isn't my opinion, it's physics: Matter cannot be created nor destroyed. This is where I get confused. I respect the Icelandic people, I have at least one friend that's a quarter Icelandic, but the concept of "hidden people" or "Huldufolk" defies logic. I've read the Wikipedia article, but I still don't understand where these people (or elves) came from? How can they exist if there was no mortal being? Surely not all Icelanders believe in this rubbish. I'd love to hear an opinion on this or an explanation where the "hidden people" originated.

God Bless,
XPIII

(Xavier Steven Prolish III)

Dear XPIII,

Thank you for your letter! Though I have to say, it's a little hard to follow your logic here.

Leaving aside the easy pot-shot of pointing out the irony of a spiritualist calling belief in huldufolk "rubbish" (ever see that one episode of Peep Show where Mark is dating that woman who thinks New Age beliefs are bullshit, but firmly believes in the power of crystal skulls? Great episode, that one), you rest your dismissal of the existence of huldufolk on physics, pointing to Albert Einstein's assertion that matter cannot be created or destroyed.

To this, I have to say: huh? Huldufolk cannot exist because they would have had to come from nowhere, and this defies the laws of physics? This makes little sense. Huldufolk, according to legend, are simply another species that have co-existed with human beings since before we can remember. They did not appear out of thin air, anymore more than other living things on this planet, and therefore they did not come out of "nothing".

There is just as much empirical evidence for the existence of huldufolk as there is for the existence of ghosts and spirits. Which is to say: none. So rest assured, your beliefs are no more nor less rubbish than that of people who believe in elves.

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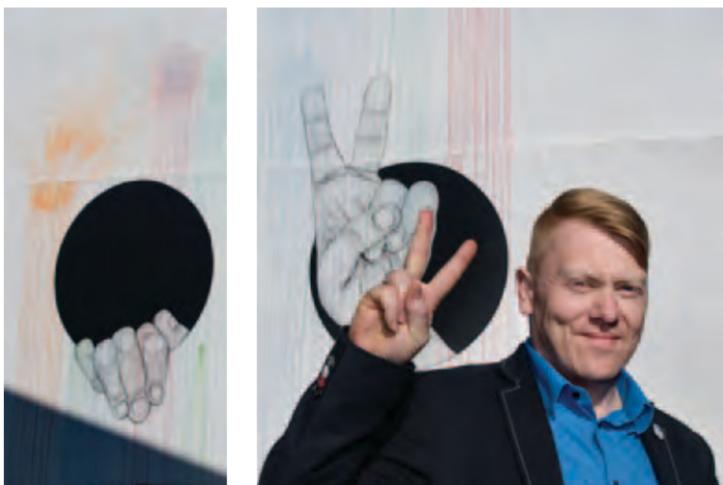
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Dear reader,

Welcome to Iceland. Whether you're here for fun and travel or for business, I hope you'll enjoy a good time here and will get to know some locals. I would also like to make a special request that you spend a lot of money throughout the duration of your stay. Do not save on dining and drinking. Allow yourself some luxury. You deserve it, and it is good for the economy. I ask that you do not visit the retail outlets run by the Salvation Army (Gardastræti 6, 101 Reykjavík) or the Red Cross (Laugavegur 12, 101 Reykjavík). Even though they are fun shops, they are rather inexpensive. You should rather visit more expensive shops.

A lot of tourists that visit the country wonder why it is called Iceland, because—despite what the name might indicate—it isn't at all cold here. The average temperature in Reykjavík is 1°C. Nowhere in the world has better summers than Iceland. It might snow in the month of June, however. That is called 'a spring snowfall'. July is the hottest month. When it comes around you better have a t-shirt handy, because the temperature can reach up to 20°C. Weather.com often states a temperature followed with a "feels like" temperature. When the heat in Reykjavík reaches 20°C, they will often say it "feels like" 15°C. That is probably due to something known as 'the wind chill factor.' No Icelander understands this. If we had this "feels like" feature in our

weather reporting, we would say that it "feels like" 40°C whenever the temperature reached 20°C, without exception. This demonstrates the importance of 'mentality' and 'attitude.'

But how can it be that such a warm country came to possess such a frigid name? Yes, the explanation is simple: MISUNDERSTANDING. Ingólfur Arnarson, the first man that found Reykjavík, wasn't on his way here at all. He was en route to the United States of America, to buy grapes and other fast food that grew wild there in those days. He was very interested in food. And also homicide. On his way he noticed a cloud of smoke ascending to the heavens from an unknown country. His curious nature got the best of him, and he changed his course and set sail to Reykjavík (Reykjavík literally means "smoky bay").

As he disembarked his ship, he saw that the smoke was in fact steam rising from Reykjavík's many swimming pools. He was therefore quick in tearing off the suit of armour that he had worn in case he'd encounter some Native Americans while picking grapes, and jumping into some swim trunks. After swimming a good 500 metres he sat in the hot tub and relaxed. After a fun chat with the locals he had forgotten all about America. Who needs to travel all the way to America to pick grapes when there's a shop on Laugavegur called Vínberíð (Vínberíð literally means: "the grape")? Ingólfur decided to settle here. He rented a small apartment along with his wife, Hallveig Fróðadóttir, who

many claim was the daughter of Frodo from 'Lord Of The Rings,' Nothing has been proven about that, however.

One day Ingólfur and Hallveig were taking a stroll around town. They were walking their dog, who was called Plúto and was a Great Dane. It was a sizzling hot summer's day. It was long before the t-shirt was invented. They were both dressed in full suits of armour, with swords and shields and helmets and everything. They stopped by at Ísbúð Vesturbæjar in Hagamelur to get some ice cream and cool down. The story goes that Ingólfur asked the clerk whether she knew what the country was called.

She thought it was called Thule. Ingólfur felt that was a stupid name.

"No country can be called Thule," he said.

Outside the ice cream shop, a crowd had gathered. They had heard that foreign visitors were in town. A lot of those people were elves. Ingólfur then approached the crowd, raised his ice cream cone aloft and shouted:

"Henceforth this country will be called Iceland, because one can get the world's best ice cream here!"

Today we have a statue of Ingólfur. The statue depicts Ingólfur dying of heat, leaning on his dog.

Don't be a stranger, be like Ingólfur!

Best regards,

Jón Gnarr
Mayor of Reykjavík

Opinion | Hildur Lilliendahl

WHY I BOTHER – PART II



Ok. So in part one I told you good people about some quite infuriating examples of misogyny in the Icelandic media. I even explained why they were infuriating, why the things that journalists, representatives of the justice system, and the police were saying were actually sexist, hurtful, degrading and plain fucking wrong. So here's part two. And yes, there's going to be a part three. I promise. I'd like to keep explaining why I bother, why I can't help being a hard-core militant feminist all day, every day. This time I'd like to focus on the international media—meaning news stories of misogyny that make it all the way to Iceland through the intrawebs and the power of social media.

Let's have a look at British MP Ken Clarke. In case you don't know, here's what happened: Ken explained, in an interview with BBC Radio 5, to us women, to us who have been raped, to us feminists, to all of us who don't know better, how there was an obvious difference between being 'raped' and actually being raped. It's a long and complicated story that you should Google. Here's the short version: He's pushing for a proposal for rapists' sentences to be halved if they plead guilty. Meaning: confession should pay off. Makes sense, in a way. But (and this is a big 'but') in a BBC Radio 5 interview, he implied that date rape didn't really count. He said that the tariff was quite long when the crime in question was "a serious rape with violence and an unwilling woman." The interviewer then interrupted him to say that, "With respect, rape is rape." To which he replied: "No, it's not." He later apologised in that classic appalling way, saying something along the lines of being sorry IF he had offended someone. Blaaaah.

And along came British MEP Roger Helmer with a blog entry confirming his status as village idiot. (Remember his very homophobic tweet from last January? No? He wrote: "Why is it OK for a surgeon to perform a sex-change operation, but not OK for a psychiatrist to try to 'turn' a consenting homosexual?" No kidding. Google it.) Trying to weigh in on Ken Clarke's remarks, he described a "classic stranger rape" scenario, where a "masked individual emerges from the bushes, hits his victim over the head with a blunt instrument, drags her into the undergrowth and rapes her, and then leaves her unconscious, careless whether she lives or dies." He then described date rape thus: when a woman "voluntarily goes to her boyfriend's apartment, voluntarily goes into the bedroom, voluntarily undresses and gets into bed, perhaps anticipating sex, or naively expecting merely a cuddle. But at the last minute she gets cold feet and says 'Stop!' The young man, in the heat of the moment, is unable to restrain himself and carries on." Now, Helmer might not agree, but to me it seems like the 'young man' in question is forcibly having intercourse with an unwilling woman. And that, my friends, is a big fucking deal.

Let's check out a part of the whole Dominique Strauss Kahn fiasco: the sexual violence story of the year. Here's a real hotshot, a high-profile, handsome and adored politician with a history of massive chauvinism, debauchery, womanizing and even violence, from a country with a heavy tradition of not talking about these things. They're 'personal.' You know. And here comes this nobody, this lower class immigrant, who blatantly says: He assaulted me. The world sticks by her for a few weeks but before you know it, there are news reports saying she's a prostitute, she actually knows people currently serving prison sentences and she lied on her application when seeking asylum in the US. Oh, yeah, and the charges will probably be dropped. And here's why this is a problem for me: Her vagina was bruised, her clothes were torn, her shoulder was cut and his DNA was found on her and around her. His semen was there. Newsflash: It's quite possible to rape prostitutes and the fact that you lied while seeking asylum does not mean that you're likely to accuse an innocent man of an attempt to rape. Really.

You see, this is what we're up against. Women are constantly being told that sometimes it's almost OK to rape them. There's a whole world of trouble out there. I can't stop fighting it. I won't stop fighting it.

Ice | Cream

Myths don't melt

The Ice Cream Tradition



The accurate etymology of the name Iceland continuously remains in question. Some claim that since Iceland was a lush green paradise while Greenland was basically a huge block of ice, the Vikings, in their attempts to detour further invaders, ironically named the country Iceland. This one is quite popular with foreigners, who take pride in their supposedly off beat tid-bit. However, others (like Reykjavik Mayor Jón Gnarr) insist that Ingólfur Arnarson decided to name his new-found country Iceland "because one can get the world's best ice cream here!"

Although the reality may never be unveiled, the loving bond between Icelanders and ice cream persists. Dairy has always been a major food group in Icelandic culture, with the average Icelander eating about 100 gallons of dairy per year. Many ice cream locations across Iceland receive their supply of frozen deliciousness from Kjörís. The company has been actively supplying Icelanders with their favourite treat since 1969 and has remained throughout the years a consistently family run business.

"Ice cream makes people happy," says Guðrún Hafsteinsdóttir. Her father was one of the original founders of Kjörís, and she has been part of the family business from early childhood, and witnessed a steady increase in ice cream consumption for the past twenty

years. Guðrún explains that the patterns of consumption have changed. "Now a-days people eat ice cream all year round." Instead of savouring ice cream for the rare sunny day, people are willing to enjoy it for what it is, a delicious treat, fitting any occasion. And weather. Yet, some things remain the same. The majority of their income is still made in the summer months: June, July, and August. Guðrún says that they have been trying to introduce new flavours to excite the consumer. They have come up with flavours like strawberry, chocolate chip mint, hazelnut. There's even an ice cream shop serving beer flavoured ice cream. However, "vanilla is always in highest demand," says Guðrún reassuredly. According to statistics, vanilla is overwhelmingly the flavour of choice

in most countries including Iceland and the U.S. "The Icelanders are more like the Americans," explains Guðrún, "we love chocolate, caramel and the juicy stuff." Which are usually nicely accented with vanilla. Speaking from a lifetime of experience in the ice cream business, Guðrún says "nothing can be compared to a good vanilla ice cream. It's because vanilla is a very sophisticated flavour, if it's good it's good alone but also with cakes and many dishes."

After a long dark and dreary winter, with only about five hours of daily daylight, Icelanders are bordering insanity when spring approaches. When the first rays of the spring sun hit, Icelanders tend to gather the whole family in the car, grab everyone an ice cream, and simply drive around whilst eating their treats. Guðrún explains: "Icelanders get that summer feeling. I have always found it very special that even if they must endure the gruelling winters, they still manage to get that summer feeling very strongly each year."

Yes, it is impossible to keep a good Icelander down. Their optimism always seems to shine through come summer. When the temperature is breaching 11 degrees Celsius, (which feels like 9 degrees Celsius) the good Icelander is wearing a summer dress or a T-shirt, while tourists are bundled in wind-breakers and snow pants. They may be skipping enthusiastically down the street, hopefully giving out high fives and spreading smiles. Yet there's one thing that both tourists, Icelanders and foreigners will all probably be doing: grabbing a mouth watering, icy cool, yummy in my tummy, worlds best, ice cream.

MELKORKA LICEA
JULIA STAPLES

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“Nonetheless, the bloggers and politicians who inspired Breivik must be held accountable for their creation of an alternate universe in which his actions are perfectly logical.”

Words Have Consequences

 I do not believe Anders Behring Breivik is insane. Certainly, his murderous rampage was horrific and cruel. His targets were young, innocent, and defenceless. How their deaths will further his avowed goal of removing Muslims from Norway is beyond me.

Insanity, however, is characterised by a lack of reason, a lack of cohesiveness in one’s view of the world. Breivik acted in a rational manner, if you share his worldview. In his eyes, the political parties—especially those on the left—represented a direct danger to the indigenous Norwegian culture due to their policies on immigration and civil rights. His fight was not with the Muslims, whom he regarded as less than human, but with those within his nation who were allowing the enemy into the Homeland.

There would be no point in purging the country of the Islamic infection without first cutting off the means by which the infection was entering the body. The internal traitors are, in his eyes, the immediate enemy. Therefore, they (and their children) must die.

It would be overly simplistic to place all the blame on the right wing extremists in northern Europe and North America. The values of traditional Islam are, to some degree, incompatible with the values of a liberal society. The treat-

ment of women in many Muslim countries is abominable. The pronouncement of death sentences on those who convert from Islam is barbaric.

Nonetheless, the bloggers and politicians who inspired Breivik must be held accountable for their creation of an alternate universe in which his actions are perfectly logical. As Hitler taught us, words have consequences and calls for purification of the nation can lead to particularly gruesome consequences.

Unfortunately, Breivik’s views correspond exactly to the hatred and ignorance spewed 24/7 by media like Faux News (they like to call themselves Fox News) and then echoes endlessly via smaller outposts—it’s become impossible in some states of the US to find a radio station that broadcasts anything but delusional Christian fundamentalist propaganda.

This extremism, which has become the greatest threat to civilized societies, is not about churches and congregations. It’s about a way of thinking, with its own culture, celebrities, and fulltime poison pens, like Ann Coulter: “We should invade their countries, kill their leaders, and convert them to Christianity.”

The description of Breivik—extreme right-wing anti-government, anti-immigrant Christian fundamentalist gun-

lover—could in fact fit the GOP’s new Congress members. These gun- and bible-bearing extremists hate Obama and liberals and despise education and knowledge: who needs that when you have a direct line to the heavenly parent.

Tea Party members show up armed (and dangerous) at county and city hall meetings. At the Republican National Convention a fan of Sarah Palin screamed about the President of the United States, to the audience’s delight, “Obama is a terrorist, kill him!”

The politicians themselves also suggest homicidal encouragements. GOP Senate candidate Sharron Angle said in an interview, “people are really looking toward those Second Amendment remedies...what can we do to turn this country around? ...the first thing we need to do is take Harry Reid out.”

“This rhetoric is not cost-free,” a former C.I.A. officer and a consultant on terrorism told the New York Times. Before last year’s elections many had asked Palin—who encouraged voters to “reload and aim” at Democrats—to tone down her violent rhetoric. One of those was Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, who warned of its possible “consequences.” She was to discover a few months later just how horribly personal those consequences would be when she was shot in the head during

a murderous rampage by another right-wing extremist.

We should not kid ourselves into believing that this could not happen in Iceland. As much as any other society, we divide the world into Us and Them. We happily imported workers from Poland and the Baltic states when times were good, but we were more than glad to show them the door when things got tough. Our politicians are as willing to stoop to demagoguery as politicians anywhere, and Icelandic poison pens, who blog about raping and beating up politicians they don’t like, are no different than their foreign hatemongers.

It is ironic that in the decade since 9/11 the US might have changed from a nation that considered itself the world’s model of democracy and justice to its foremost exporter of hatred and violence. But mass annihilation no longer requires national military actions. As Anders Behring Breivik has shown us, and Timothy McVeigh before him, it only takes one. “We have met the enemy, and he is us.” Bin Laden must be laughing in Hell. ☹

IRIS ERLINGSDÓTTIR
JIANG JIANG

Opinion | Snorri Páll Jónsson
Úlfhildarson

Shoot Teenagers and Fight Environmentalists



In a very short time the discourse following last week’s right-wing terrorist attacks in Norway reached both absurd and scary heights, with one of the best examples being American TV and radio host Glenn Beck’s attempt to justify the mass murderer by comparing the Social Democratic youth camp in Utøya with the Hitler Youth. In Iceland, it was the writings of Björn Bjarnason, a right-wing conservative and Iceland’s Minister of Justice from 2003 to 2009.

Only a day after the attacks, Björn, who systematically voiced what he called “the need” for the establishment of an army-like police force when he was Minister of Justice, wrote on his website (www.bjorn.is)—one of Iceland’s oldest blog-sites, frequently quoted by journalists—that the Norwegian state, with its powerful secret police force, should have all the necessary tools to fight the threat of terrorism. According to Björn, this police force keeps a strict eye on potential terrorist cells—groups that operate “in service of political ideals” or “under the banner of environmentalism or nature conservation.”

Following this came a paragraph about the current Minister of Interior Ógmundur Jónasson who has talked about granting the police proactive investigation permits to fight against organised crime, political activists and environmentalists presumably excluded. But as the murderer in Oslo and Utøya had a political agenda, Björn argues that environmentalists are likely to act the same. Therefore, he concludes that the en masse slaughter of teenagers should teach the Icelandic authorities a lesson and encourage them to establish a secret police to fight environmentalists.

Anyone who reads through the Oslo-Utøya-murderer manifesto knows that he sees himself as a warrior in a fight for the creation of a conservative, Christian, fascist, masculine, homophobic, militaristic, nationalistic West. Surely he takes a step further than most fascists by using Dark Ages imagery, explicit language and an extremely violent strategy to market his ideas, but his written manifest is only an extreme version of the same ideas preached by the more sophisticated everyday right-wing conservatives, the Icelandic ones not excluded. Thus it makes sense, if wanting to prevent further mass murders à la Anders Breivik, that one should look deeply into the growing fascist rhetoric in Western political discourse today.

Shooting an island full of teenagers has never been the tactic of radical environmentalists who usually take action without threatening lives, but in the eyes of Björn Bjarnason and his like-minded people, a special secret police force should be formed to step on them and their rights. While some people might want to dismiss what the former Minister of Justice writes, it should in fact be taken extremely seriously that he finds it reasonable to use the Norwegian mass murder to re-examine his old fight against environmentalists—a fight in which he is far away from being alone. Now it is our responsibility to stop him and his comrades in arms—wherever they are stand politically—from being able to capitalise on last week’s events and thereby realising their fantasies. ☹

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Scene From The City



Photo enthusiast Skarphéðinn Sæmundsson is constantly taking in Reykjavík from different angles, camera in hand. Reykjavík, in turn, keeps yielding interesting scenes and new viewpoints. You'll find more of Skarphéðinn's photos on his website, Skarpi.net.

"I hadn't taken any pictures for years when I picked up a small, pocketable, digicam last year. That rekindled an interest in film photography so now I carry an old analogue rangefinder everywhere I go."

"My pictures are mostly documents of my walks around Reykjavík. Rather than seek out spectacles, I like it when the ordinary and banal presents itself to me in an unusual way."

"A scene like this, with everyday elements arranged in odd ways, has me instantly reaching for my camera."
www.skarpi.net

Pictured:

Reykjavík's planning is a weird thing. 20th century office buildings stand next to 18th century timber houses, with streets that seem to be plotted without rhyme or reason. Óðinstorg would be a great example of this. Located just east of Skólavörðustígur, it's a triangular intersection-cum-patch of asphalt that seems like it spent the day wandering the town, lost, before deciding to settle on this spot. So naturally, people started using it for parking. The city didn't want people to do that, so the solution was: benches! Benches facing in totally random directions, without rhyme or reason. Much like anything else planned in Reykjavík.

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THE TRAGIC STORY OF SÆVAR CIESIELSKI

Sævar Ciesielski died in Copenhagen on July 13, of accidental causes. He was nothing less than Iceland's most famous felon. Along with a group of his friends, he was convicted of two murders in 1980, after having been held in custody for a long time. This is the most written and talked about criminal case in Icelandic history, Guðmundur og Geirfinnsmálið ("The case of Guðmundur and Geirfinnur"—after the two alleged victims, whose bodies have never been recovered).

After he was released from jail in 1984, Sævar fought for the case to be reopened. He always professed his innocence, but to no avail. In the last years, Sævar started living the life of a homeless man, staying mostly in Copenhagen. Many think that Sævar and his friends were the victims of a great travesty of justice.

TWO MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCES

Sævar was sentenced for the murders of Geirfinnur Einarsson and Guðmundur Kristjánsson. Both men disappeared without a trace. Guðmundur was never seen again after a night on the town, but the case of Geirfinnur Einarsson was more complicated. Geirfinnur, a resident of the town of Keflavík, came home one night, received a phone call and went out—never to be seen again.

This was November 19, 1974. The case dragged on for years, rousing all sorts of rumours, some of which made it into the press. At one stage, a prime minister of Iceland even made a fiery speech in Alþingi, denying the connections of his party to the affair. This link was through a nightclub called Klúbburrinn, whose owner was a party sponsor. In one of the strangest turns of the case, the owner and three others were arrested and held in custody for more than a hundred days. The theory was that they had been involved in smuggling alcohol with Geirfinnur Einarsson. This was totally unfounded.

ENTER A GERMAN POLICEMAN

The Icelandic police was at its wits end. A medium was even brought in to find

Words

Egill Helgason

Photo

Morgunblaðið, February 3, 1977

the body of Geirfinnur. Finally, the Icelandic government recruited a German policeman to wrap up the case. His name was Karl Schütz. Security matters were his speciality, rather than criminal investigations. He didn't turn up with new evidence; rather, he rearranged matters so that the solution of the case he presented on February 2, 1977 looked plausible. A nightmare has been lifted from the nation—were the headlines of the newspapers.

Finally Sævar Ciesielski and Kristján Viðar Viðarsson were convicted for both murders while a group of their friends and acquaintances also received sentences for being accessories. Originally Sævar was given a life sentence, but the High Court changed the sentence to 17 years.

NO EVIDENCE, ONLY CONFESSIONS

This should have been the end of that, after years of continuous press coverage. But it was not. Firstly, there were no bodies—neither Geirfinnur nor Guðmundur were ever found (or proven to be deceased). There are no murder weapons. And there was no evidence. For example, no one had seen Sævar or any of his friends in Keflavík on the night of Geirfinnur's disappearance. Nobody knows if they were there. Guðmundur Kristjánsson might have been killed in a drunken brawl, but in the case of Geirfinnur there was a complete lack of motive.

The cases were "solved" solely by force of confession. It has since been a source of debate as to how these confessions were obtained. The prisoners suffered long periods of isolation, in Sævar's case almost two years. A former prison guard later revealed how these methods broke the prisoners and drove them mad. Sævar was deprived of sleep, he was not allowed to have reading material, and he might even have been subjected to some forms of torture, such as putting his head under water. So nobody can really know if these confessions hold true or not. The prison guard who finally talked received threats from his fellow guards and policemen.

SÆVAR'S STRUGGLE

When Sævar got out of prison he claimed he was innocent. Most of the others who were sentenced with him disappeared into society. They are all alive—they were very young people at the time of the proceedings—except Sævar and a gentle, well liked man called Tryggvi Rúnar Leifsson, who died two years ago from cancer. Tryggvi was sentenced for the murder of Guðmundur Kristjánsson—on his deathbed he is said to have



Daily newspaper Morgunblaðið declares case closed: Three men confess to the murder of Geirfinnur.

protested his innocence. But Sævar was too famous. He was Iceland's most notorious criminal. Everybody knew him. In a way he did rather well. He was raised partly in a now infamous institution called Breiðavík, where young boys were almost systematically destroyed, but he managed to find a family for a while and father children. Nobody really knew whether he was guilty or not, and he struggled on.

In 1997, Sævar had gotten so far that the High Court actually deliberated

"The Icelandic police was at its wits end. A medium was even brought in to find the body of Geirfinnur. Finally, the Icelandic government recruited a German policeman to wrap up the case."

whether to reopen the case. It decided not to—which was a bitter disappointment. The court claimed that there was no new evidence, but surely there was no evidence in the first place! The special prosecutor charged with handling the case at this time was quoted as saying that, whatever the case, these people were no choirboys.

A MULTIPLE MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE

After the verdict of the High Court, then-Prime Minister Davíð Oddsson made a famous speech in the Alþingi. He talked about a miscarriage of justice—this is

maybe as close as Sævar ever got to having his name restored. Davíð said that he had studied the case thoroughly and that grave mistakes had been made at every level. He said he was disappointed by the High Court's decision, and that it would have been good for the judicial system to review the case—"there was not just one miscarriage of justice, but many, and it is very hard to live with this."

After this Sævar gradually lost his footing in life. He started drinking heav-

forth from Iceland to Denmark to save his head.

A MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY

Ultimately, Sævar had no country. It is reported that in the end he was not registered as an Icelandic citizen. A group of Icelanders met him in Christiania a few days before he died. Sævar was staying in a tree house. He introduced himself, but of course they instantly recognised him despite the dirt and the years of hard living. "I was made an outlaw from Iceland," Sævar told them. "We know, Sævar, we know," was the interlocutor's feeble answer. "But anyway, Iceland has sunk," Sævar added.

A few days later he died of head injuries. He was 56. His funeral will be held in the Cathedral of Reykjavík on August 2. And now that he is dead, there are again demands that his case be reopened or that an investigative committee look into the whole affair. But it is not really likely that this will happen. Formally, it is only the High Court that can decide to review the case. As before there is no new evidence—and probably there never will be. The judicial system does not like to admit mistakes. Thus, we will possibly never know the truth of the matter. But it has to be said that Sævar Ciesielski was, in his quest for what he believed was justice, quite a remarkable figure in his own way. ✪



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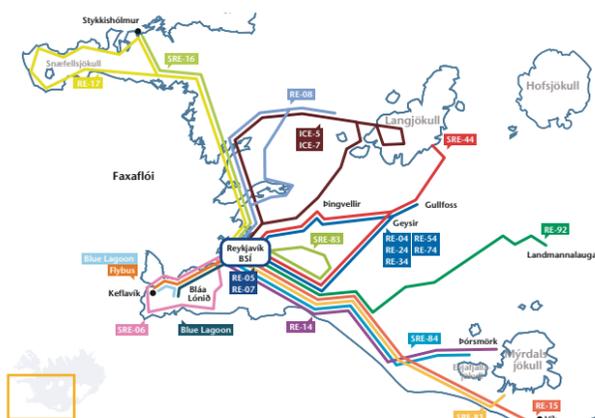


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The Constitutional Committee

What's At Stake



A Symbol Of Hope

Artist Nikhil Kirsh talks about his painting of the Constitutional Committee

It's not every morning that an artist wakes up and decides, "You know what would be great? Doing portraits of government appointees." But artist Nikhil Kirsh did exactly that, predominantly for ideological reasons.

"When I found out about the constitutional committee," he told me, "I just immediately saw the finished painting in my head. It's like that with me—when I get an idea, I see it done, and then it's just a run to the finish line."

But why paint the Constitutional Committee?

"Beforehand, I had learned about The Movement [a recent Icelandic political party derived from the country's activist base]. I don't know much about Icelandic politics, but I met them, and felt I connected with them. But I was in the mood to do something truly epic. I think the people picked to be on the constitutional committee represent a pretty good symbol of hope."

Logistically, painting the committee was a bit complicated. Kirsh explained that he had to photograph different portions separately, as not all members of the committee were available at the same time, and juggling the varying schedules stretched out photographing the subjects over a period of three weeks.

And his impressions of the committee as a whole?

"Everyone I spoke to seemed committed to what they were doing," he said. "They were working together on a project that they believe is socially important. Their convictions are pinpointed on a collective goal."

Kirsh also says he has his fingers crossed to get his painting into parliament. "I think a portrait of this eclectic group would look great alongside the portraits of old men they have hanging on the walls," he says with a laugh.

Until the painting makes it into parliament, you can see it yourself—along with his other works of Icelanders—at Gallery Fold on 20 August. www.nikhilkirsh.com

within that organisation, so if this article were to pass, such a referendum would possibly be impossible.

At this point it remains to be seen whether our elected representatives vote to increase transparency, limit their power, and blunt the populist cause du jour that is the referendum, but stay tuned. ☺

Perhaps one of the most important results of the 2009 Pots and Pans Revolution was the notion that Iceland's constitution—more or less a copy/paste job from Denmark—needed serious reworking. The project is beginning to reach a conclusion now, as the 25-member Constitutional Committee is, at the time of this writing, preparing to submit its first draft. So, what do we have in store? Here are a few of the more major changes proposed.

THE CHURCH AND STATE

Perhaps one of the most significant changes to the constitution regards the possible separation of church and state. At last count, about 74% of Icelanders favour the idea, influenced in part by a recent sex scandal cover-up that implicates the former and current Bishop of Iceland.

But the Constitutional Committee has taken a more cautious approach to the matter. In Article 19 of the eighteenth iteration of the constitutional draft (the most current one at this point), the Committee specifically states that parliament may decide to initiate a referendum on the matter.

Committee member Illugi Jökulsson, speaking to *Vísir*, said last June, "It was our conclusion to head in that direction right away." He added that while the committee discussed the pros and cons of separation of church and state, the one conclusion they came to was that in the end, the question would have to be answered in a referendum.

"It's a matter that means a great deal to people," Illugi said. "Whether people have strong opinions on faith or strong opinions on atheism, people are dead serious that we must respect both sides, and we intend to try as best we can to resolve the matter with as much satisfaction to all involved as possible."

GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

Another concern that arose from the collapse of the economy was the notion that there is a lack of access to information about what the government actually is up to. It is a lack of transparency, many contend, that contributes to nepotism

and general corruption. To this end, the Constitutional Committee has included an article on transparency, which states that all government documents shall be made available for public view, within reason. Thus, the article does allow for limits on public access to government information, in that access "need not go farther than necessary to preserve the normal functions of government," which, granted, is pretty open to interpretation.

The committee has also recommended the creation of an independent parliamentary supervisory committee, which would overlook every aspect of the legislative process. This committee would also assess how members of parliament defended or fought for their own interests. The proposal recommends as well that members of parliament not be allowed to have any other type of employment, either public or private, while in office.

PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The draft also lays down some pretty specific guidelines with regard to our country's natural resources. Specifically, Article 34 of the draft states that any land that isn't private land is public land. As such, it cannot be sold to a private party, directly or indirectly.

The significance of this article cannot be overstated. It essentially means that private companies such as Magma Energy would not, for example, be able to conduct geothermal exploration by drilling at such natural pearls as Kerlingarfjöll, as it seemed they were itching to do earlier this year.

REFERENDUMS

Anyone who followed Icesave—and how fun was that, eh?—will recall just how heated and contentious the debate over this agreement became in the run-up to the national referendum. As it is, any bill that the President does not sign into law is put up for referendum. That would change, with conditions, if Article 67 makes it into the new constitution.

According to that article, laws regarding the budget, international obligations, taxes and citizenship would not be allowed to be put up for referendum. Icesave covers two of those, but there are greater implications: there is still a strong force within the Leftist-Green Party—which shares the ruling coalition with the EU-minded Social Democrats—to withdraw Iceland from NATO. The matter, many have contended, should be put up for public referendum. Paradoxically, as a NATO country, Iceland has numerous international obligations

Words

Paul Fontaine

Illustration

Nikhil Kirsh



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AH37 In the Footsteps
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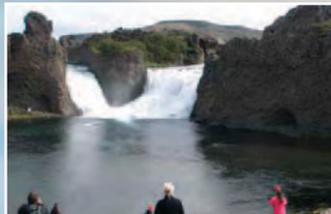
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Who's Afraid Of The Big Bad Black Swan?



Following the financial crash of 2008 one of the most common comments made was that “nobody saw it coming,” and that really, nobody could have seen the crash coming. The implication, of course, is that we can't really fault the politicians or the bankers for not having taken any action. They were, just as all Icelanders, the victims of unforeseeable events.

Things were going great, the banks were in excellent shape and the “fundamentals” were strong. So, when the crash came it was really a big evil “Black Swan” that somehow came out of nowhere and jumped the Icelandic banking community and politicians.

Except this isn't true. Many saw the writing on the wall and tried to warn that the Icelandic financial miracle was probably nothing more than a giant bubble.

Of course nobody could have predicted exactly what was going to happen. And nobody had predicted that the entire financial system would collapse. The collapse, when it came, was far more complete and awful than anyone had foreseen. But that does not change the fact that there were numerous warnings that Iceland had taken wrong turns on its path to become a “global financial centre” and that things could go horribly wrong. And even if it has been popular to argue that the banks had blinded everyone with their success, a number of people did see that this success could just as easily have been a bubble.

ALL BUBBLES ARE BLACK SWANS

After the dot com bubble burst there was a general feeling that it would take a long time before a new bubble could inflate—that people had “learned their lesson” and more reasonable expectations would guide their attitudes. In 2002, Margerit Pétursson, stock trader and chess grandmaster, who later founded the investment bank MP—one of the few banks which survived the crash—estimated that it would take at least three to four years for any signs of a new bubble to emerge.

Several steps were taken to rein in speculation and curb the worst excesses of the dot com era. The banks stopped

making margin loans on unlisted stocks, and drastically cut down their own involvement in venture capital. When the bubble burst, they took a huge hit on their investments in unlisted shares, especially in the Icelandic genetics firm DeCode. Prior to listing on the Nasdaq, DeCode had sold for as much as 65 dollars per share in the gray market as the stock traders of the banks marketed them aggressively to amateur daytraders, insisting that the price of DeCode would for sure go to 100 dollars per share.

As it turned out the price never went above 30 dollars after the company went public in 2000. In fact, the stock started a fast descent to less than 2 dollars a share by the beginning of 2003, and by the end of 2008 it had become a “penny stock,” selling for less than a dollar per share. The banks had only been able to unload part of the stock on unsuspecting customers and had to write off most of their holdings. The lesson learned by the banks was to stay out of unlisted high-tech companies and venture capital, and instead to focus on private equity and listed companies.

Legislation governing the market was also strengthened, for example with laws to regulate mutual funds, which invested in stocks. Together these moves cleaned up the worst abuses and pretty much eliminated unlisted shares from the market. Since the speculative excesses had been identified with unlisted shares, it seemed that the problem of speculation had largely been eliminated as well.

But of course it had not. The action moved instead to the shares of investment companies that specialised in privatising companies through leveraged takeovers. And the banks, by this time they had begun their expansion abroad, and the era of the Icelandic financial miracle had begun.

THE FINANCIAL MIRACLE

While the public identified amateur day traders to be the face of speculation, the banks and investment companies were after 2002 by far the most active speculative force in the market. In fact, they were both a speculator and an object of speculation.

The banks had been the darlings of Icelandic investors since the 90s. In 1998 when a 49% stake in the newly created government owned FBA Investment bank (which later came to form part of Glitnir) and a 10% stake in Landsbankinn and

Búnaðarbankinn (which merged with Kaupþing) were made available to the public, a mania for bank stocks gripped the nation. During the privatisation of Búnaðarbankinn in December 1998, a full third of the nation had subscribed for a total of 42 billion króna, when there were only 350 million on offer, making the offer oversubscribed 122 times over, probably a world record.

The banks and the Icelandic financial system weathered the crash of the dot com bubble pretty well. The Icelandic stock market fell less than most major

vine).

At that time, Vísending, a small but respected weekly on economic affairs, which publishes short academic pieces, analysis, and editorials on the state of the economy, warned that the market was overheating. Vísending argued that because the investment strategies of the daytrader were based on being the first to move hot stock-tips and sensing the mood of the market, the presence of a large numbers of day traders increased the element of herd behaviour, making stock prices less rational.

“Even if it has been popular to argue that the banks had blinded everyone with their success, a number of people did see that this success could just as easily have been a bubble.”

markets, and bottomed out well before other markets did. The drop was only 45% from the top of the bubble in February 2001 and its bottom in August 2001—compared to the 78% drop in the Nasdaq, which reached its lowest point in October 2002. Stock in the Icelandic banks fared even better, putting them in an excellent position to take advantage of relatively low asset prices in foreign markets. A domestic boom with rising real estate prices provided them with a strong home base while low interest rates following the 9/11 attack provided them with cheap capital to finance both a domestic takeover boom and an international expansion.

As a result, the index of financial services rose by 84% between January 2001 and January 2004, outpacing the overall market, which rose by 64%. When the banks began their foreign expansion in earnest their shares rose even faster. Between 2005 and mid July 2007, when the Icelandic market topped, the index of financial services rose by 183%, well in excess of the Nordic financial index, which rose by 66%.

IT'S ALL VERY REASONABLE

As discussed in the last issue of The Grapevine, all of these rises seemed “reasonable,” and the disappearance of day traders from the market following the dot com bubble as well as the curbing of margin loans and the elimination of the gray market all seemed to suggest that they were not experiencing a bubble. But by the spring of 2004, the daytraders had returned to the market and there were also serious signs of a housing market bubble (See the June 17 issue of Grape-

Danish press began to report very critically on the Icelandic “financial miracle,” pointing out that it was impossible to understand the complex makeup of the various investment and holding companies at its heart and their relationship to the banks, or to explain the ballooning of the banks and the rapidly rising asset prices in Iceland without assuming both were the result of a bubble. In 2006, this criticism was more or less repeated in a thorough report by analysts of Danske Bank, as well as reports from Credit Sights, Barclays Capital Research and Merrill Lynch. These were unanimous in their verdict: The Icelandic economy had overheated and there was serious danger of a crash.

THE GREATEST FINANCIAL FIASCO IN HISTORY

Unfortunately none of this criticism carried any weight in Iceland as the financial community, business leaders, politicians and the media united in dismissing it. The common refrain was that these foreigners just didn't understand Icelandic finance. The banks, with the help of eager politicians, launched a public relations campaign and the Icelandic Chamber of Commerce paid two respected economists to give the banks a clean bill of health. Fredric Mishkin and Tryggvi Þór Herbertsson (who was later awarded a special position as “advisor on economic affairs” to the government) wrote a glowing report titled “Financial stability in Iceland” which was then touted by bankers and politicians alike.

But even if the financial community and politicians believed their own hype, not everyone did. For example, Vísending, the economics weekly, continued to publish regular articles pointing out that there were ample reasons to doubt the soundness of the financial miracle and that things could go horribly wrong. In 2004, the weekly had warned of a bubble and in 2005, it warned that Icelandic economic policy, much like American economic policy, was based on promoting a giant asset bubble, and that it was unlikely either country would be able avoid the consequences. In a different article from the same year, the editor pointed out that there was a very real danger that the “economic miracle” would not go down in history as the “period of greatest economic prosperity in the history of Iceland,” but rather as “the greatest financial fiasco in Icelandic history.”

Words

Magnús Sveinn Helgason

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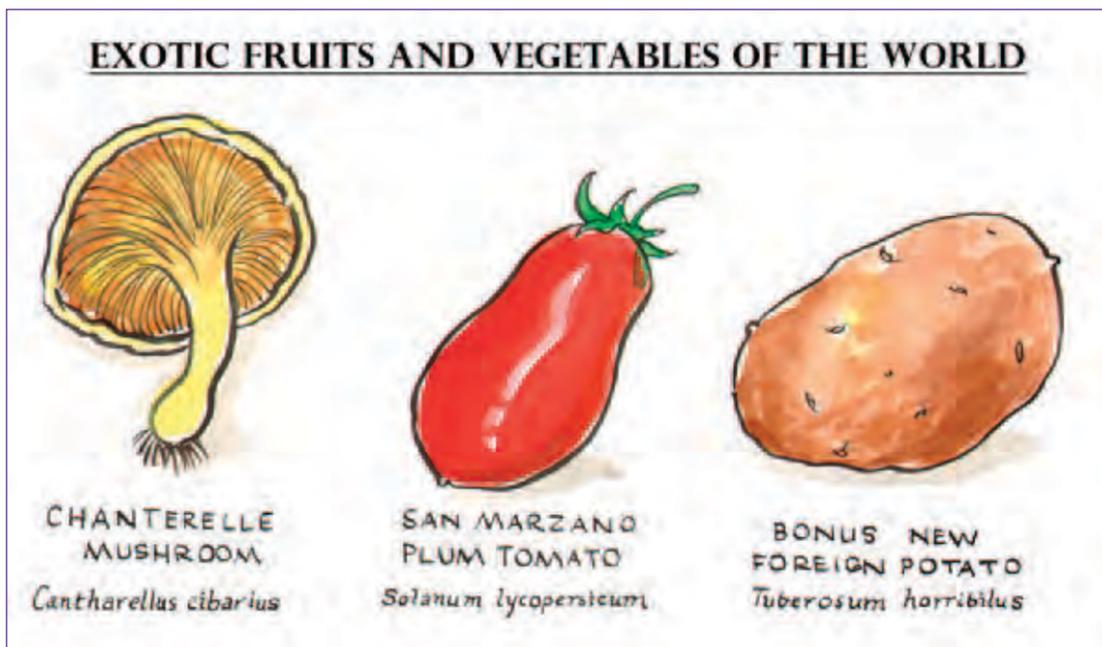
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In Consideration of the Icelandic Vegetable

How Icelanders eat, part three



REMINISCING WITH FUNGI

I recall once, while living in Zurich—where every Friday morning behind the Hauptbahnhof, vegetable vendors and their allies, cheese makers, sauce stirrers, picklers and curers, displayed their wares—falling deeply in love with food.

I remember, we had to prise ourselves out of bed at the crack of dawn, well before the beginnings of traffic, and after a smooth coffee and a freshly-baked croissant at a little bistro just down the hill, we'd take tramline number nine all the way to the open air market.

Here were carts displaying 40 kinds of wild mushrooms and fungi, Chanterelles and Porcini, Black Trumpets and Truffles; homemade wild herb pestos; chutneys, jams and jellies made with alpine berries and flowers; hundreds of cheeses—from the softest Bries, to the most pungent Gruyeres; the air-dried meats, spiced sausages and salamis, dozens of them in all shapes and sizes, all cured to perfection by mountain breezes; and the breads baked with love by Swiss Farmer's wives; and vegetables—almost anything your heart desired.

All this now seems like a distant memory. And I recall the mouth-watering seafood in the open-air markets of Barcelona, of Valencia; the pates, confits and cheeses of Paris and Lyon; the mad-sprawl of the Tokyo fish market; the weekend displays of epicurious delights in every single, little Tuscan village—the hundreds of shapes of pastas and homemade raviolis, the Mamas sautéing and stirring the pots; and in Corfu, the olives, the olives, always the olives.

Words

Marc Vincenz

Illustration

Megan Herbert

Sometimes when I wake up in Reykjavík, I wonder what on earth I'm doing here—virtually olive- and mushroom-less.

Of course, the development of a cuisine is a weather-beaten, historical

"Sometimes when I wake up in Reykjavík, I wonder what on earth I'm doing here—virtually olive- and mushroom-less."

thingy, and we the survivors of Iceland's breezy / rainy summers well know that these are not exactly conducive to growing a slew of veg and picklings; but the fact is, even fifty years on, and even with geothermally-heated greenhouses, pickings are still slim.

SO WHAT IS AN ICELANDIC POTATO, EXACTLY?

With over fifteen years eating in Icelandic homes, I can firmly attest to the fact that at least half of the people I've met here have never even considered eating fresh asparagus, had the pleasure of fresh vinaigrette-dipped artichoke straight from the rump—and baked potatoes? Where in God's name are the baked potatoes?

Granted, supermarkets like Bónus and Krónan flog potatoes, and they also

sell five-packs of what they term 'baking potatoes' pre-wrapped in silver foil, for those of us who don't know how to wrap; but quite honestly these are not baking potatoes.

Ask any chef worth his salt, and he'll tell you that a real baking potato is the King Edward or, at a pinch, a Maris Piper or a Golden Wonder. As stated by British cook and food writer Nigel Slater, "To get a really fluffy baked potato you need 'floury', the sort that have white rather than yellow flesh and crumble when you cook them." And the skin should get

crispy when baked in the oven.

Honestly, I have yet to eat a serious baked potato in Iceland.

POTATO RESEARCH

Ask any member of staff at a local supermarket chain if he/she happens to know when he'll get some King Edward potatoes in, and you'll get a wide-berthed shrug; and quite frankly the sheer lack of designation on species of commercially-sold veg in Icelandic supermarkets has vexed this quasi-Icelander from day one.

Bearing this in mind, I conducted a little potato-research at the major 'budget' supermarket chains, Bónus and Krónan, in Reykjavík and here is what I discovered:

BÓNUS

This week the two branches surveyed were stocking five different 'types' of potato:

- 1) Large, thin-skinned ones, loosely called 'Loose Baking Potatoes'
- 2) Ones termed 'Bónus New Foreign Potatoes'
- 3) Potatoes in a neutral plastic bag pack of 2 kgs termed 'Potatoes'
- 4) Icelandic grown potatoes called 'Red Potatoes'
- 5) And, of course, the obligatory, foil-wrapped potato, called 'Grill Potatoes'

KRÓNAN

Krónan scored a little higher than Bónus on variety (six 'types' in all), but were also entirely unsure as to what potatoes they were really selling. Here's the low down:

- 1) 'Small white foreign potatoes'—after close examination, I found these to be Maris Piper potatoes (aha, a possible baking potato) from Mallorca, Spain
- 2) So-called large 'Baking Potatoes'
- 3) The same large, thin-skinned ones as in Bonus, also termed, 'Loose Baking Potatoes'
- 4) Icelandic grown 'Red Potatoes'
- 5) Icelandic grown 'Goldeneye Potatoes' (perhaps a derivative of the 'Golden Wonder?')
- 6) 'Helga' potatoes from Hornafjörður

Strangely, not a single potato was designated according to species (at least any internationally known classification), and there was not a single King Edward (baking potato among them). Of course, we all know that the potato originated in the New World and saved the Irish nation from starvation at the turn of the last century, but in actual fact, there are over 4000 varieties of commercial potato, from the Adirondack Blue to the Bamberg to the Fingerling all the way to the Yukon Gold.

Can anybody out there tell me what a 'Red Potato' or a 'Loose Baking Potato' is?

YOU SAY TOM-AYTO I SAY TOM-AHTO

And then, the tomato—possibly the only Icelandic grown vegetable (actually really classified as a fruit—but we won't pull hairs here) that always appears to be in stock. Grown in greenhouses in places like Flúðir and Hveragerði, there are pretty much only three (scratch that—four) 'types' of tomato on offer in Bónus and Krónan:

- 1) Cherry tomatoes
- 2) Plum tomatoes

3) So-called 'Icelandic' tomatoes

4) And now, available in Bónus for a limited period, 'Health tomatoes,' supposedly grown with more oxygen... (we'll get to the bottom of that another time)

The tomato plant, also originally from the New World, boasts over 7500 cultivated varieties, the most popular of which are the Heirloom tomatoes—except in Iceland. But even here at least two out of four tomato 'types' do meet with some sort of internationally recognisable variety—the cherry and the plum—though true designation is lacking here too. Internationally—among many others, plum tomatoes are sub-classified as the San Marzano or Big Mama—each with its own characteristics. A cherry tomato, too, is not just a cherry tomato. Sometimes referred to as tomatinas, varieties vary widely, from the supposed original cherry tomato cultivated in the Greek Santori Islands to the cherry tomato popular in the US and Britain, the 'Sweet too.' And there are others too.

And there's a rumour going around that the so-called 'Icelandic' tomato is possibly its own cross-breed; one avid gardener told me that in the early days the seeds got all mixed up, so we're really not quite sure what variety an 'Icelandic' tomato is. Someone get out their DNA test already.

So, folks, do any of you know what exactly you are slicing into your salads? Do you have a clue what you're potato-baking in your ovens?

Honestly speaking, unless you can afford to splurge on Hagkaup or one of the newer 'organic' places, as a serious vegetarian, you'd be looking at an extremely meagre pickings indeed. And fresh mushrooms? Well, I have heard tell of Icelanders plucking wild ones in the countryside, and occasionally you do come across them in the higher-brow restaurants, but for your budget consumer it appears there's only one local variety—commercially-grown button mushroom that don't have an ounce of flavour at all—unless you smother them in 'Pepper Cheese.'

I know some of you are thinking what's the big deal? a potato is a potato, a tomato a tomato. No, folks. Try a gazpacho in Andalusia or a stuffed tomato in Umbria and tell me there isn't a mile of a difference. I'd have to say, praise the 'Icelandic' tomato for being something the rest of the world doesn't have a clue about. 🍅

Next time: I gorge on Iceland's finest smoked delicacies, and get into a punch-out with the Icelandic Horticultural Society.

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Conditions in Iceland are in many ways unusual and often quite unlike what foreign drivers are accustomed to. It is therefore very important to find out how to drive in this country. In order to reach your destination safely, you must keep your full attention on driving.

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Where paved road suddenly changes to gravel is a common place for accidents to occur on rural roads. The main reason is that drivers do not reduce speed before the changeover to gravel, and consequently lose control.

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See further instruction on www.drive.is

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Few volcanic eruptions in Iceland have made as many headlines as the one that started in the **EYJAFJALLAJÖKULL** volcano in March 2010. The volcano's stark beauty contrasts strikingly with the sheer havoc it has wreaked all around the world.

Ragnar Th. Sigurðsson's stunning photos and the accompanying text (in English and Icelandic) by **Ari Trausti Guðmundsson** give an insightful and imposing view of the eruption as it unfolds.

Ragnar has won international acclaim for his work, including three CLIO awards. His photos have for example been on the front page of The New York Times and on the cover of National Geographic. Ari Trausti is held in high regard for his many books and TV programs on geology and volcanism.

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Oodles Of Fun At The Park

City sponsors 'Toys Box' at Klambratún



Looking for something exciting to do on a Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday afternoon? If games like Kubb, Frisbee, Frisbee Golf or Twister strike your fancy, you may want to head over to Klambratún park where the Kampur recreation centre has been wheeling out a couple of boxes full of toys and fun games for park goers to enjoy completely free of charge.

"The Toys box is designed to give the people in the city of Reykjavík something fun to do with their families and friends while putting this awesome park to good use," Toys Box Project Manager Sigbór Ási Þórðarson says.

"The idea started four years ago after seeing all the different leisure activities available at Central Park and Washington Park in New York. It took a while for the project to gain headway in the city, but we now have funding and a lot of good will."

With twenty to seventy people showing up depending on the weather,

Sigbór is happy with the project's initial success and hopes that they will have even more to offer at Klambratún next summer. He would also like to see a similar box at Hljómskálagarður, a grassy area in downtown Reykjavík.

"It's been really fun to see all these people coming around to have fun and make use of our good summer weather," Sigbór says. "It's been people of all ages, including a lot of young kids from the nearest neighbourhood who have been showing up."

Unfortunately the box will be packed up on August 14 until next summer, so

hurry up and enjoy it while it lasts. And if you're really lucky, you may be able to join the "Muggle Quidditch Society of Iceland" (Yes, that's right) who will be there running around with broomsticks between their legs!

The box is available for use at Klambratún, free of charge on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 16:00 and 19:00 and on Sundays between 12:00 and 17:00. ☺

✍ ANNA ANDERSEN
📷 JULIA STAPLES

Back To Elves, Then



In a recent issue of Time Magazine, columnist Joel Stein talks about how he helped Iceland rewrite its constitution by logging on to the Constitutional Committee's webpage and offering a suggestion. He freely admits to knowing little about the country, which is just as well, as he spends half the article talking about elves. He says that his only connection with Iceland is to have gotten drunk there and interviewing Björk. During one of my sober spells, I managed to interview Björk too (see Grapevine 2004, issue 7). She told me how tired she was of being thought of as an elf, although, admittedly, she has been known to play that up to the foreign media.

Still, it is interesting that almost three years after the economic collapse, Iceland is again thought of as a land of elves and hidden folk, rather than as a country of irresponsible bankers. After all, irresponsible bankers are everywhere, whereas elves are harder to find. The volcanic eruptions have probably played their part in this repositioning back to the traditional "land of fire and ice." Stein even calls his article "Joel vs. the Volcano" without otherwise mentioning volcanoes.

The Constitutional Crisis

In itself, it's not such a bad thing if people like to think of Iceland as something terribly exotic. Anyplace far away from home would seem to be. What's annoying is Stein's statement that "Icelanders seem to agree on everything." No country exists, however exotic, where everyone agrees on everything. The very decision to rewrite the constitution arose out of conflict: economic meltdown, mass protests and something that could be called a revolution. And even if the authors may eventually agree on wording, the whole process itself has been marred by conflict of another kind.

One of the major debates raging over the new constitution has to do with the right of ownership over natural resources. In 1994, use of the country's foremost resource, the fish in the surrounding seas, was handed over to a few families which created a new class of super rich Icelanders and started the country on the road to economic ruin. The country's other major resource, renewable energy, is now up for grabs and who gets to control it will to a large extent determine Icelanders' living standards in the future. Will that too go to a select few, or will it be owned by and used to benefit the general population?

Hug thy neighbour

These are serious questions, and great interests are at stake. This may have led to the Icelandic Supreme Court's decision to declare the elections to the Constitution Parliament (now known as a committee instead) illegal, a move very much reminiscent of the US Supreme Court's decision in 2000 to stop the recounting of votes in Florida. The new constitution will be written anyway, but its legitimacy, vital to such an august document, is nevertheless impaired.

Stein states that "the document strongly implies the right to unlimited hugs." This in itself implies a country with few divisions and no real problems. If only it were so. ☺

✍ S. ALESSIO TUMMOLILLO
📷 JULIA STAPLES

Hjartatorgið

Restoring a park to its former glory



Tómas Magnússon and his wife Tanya Pollock saw an area calling for help one day when walking their child through the Hjartatorgið park. "I brought my kid over there and I was upset that I couldn't take him out of the stroller because it was full of glass, needles, and other stuff," Tómas said. Hjartatorgið was meant to be a friendly park for adults to spend summer days and for children to play, but it had grown to be neglected by citizens of Reykjavík due to the lack of care and upkeep given to the area.

From this sadness, an idea was born to clean up the park of its dangers. The couple created a Facebook group and

started posting events, asking anyone who wanted to help restore the park to come out and lend a hand. The first clean up was scheduled for July 20. After that, the project kept growing with more and more volunteers until the area was cleaned up enough for children to play there safely.

But the couple doesn't plan on stopping there. "We want to have a playground," Tanya said. "As soon as people see that it's a child friendly area, they tend to respect the area more. We want to build our own benches; people are more likely to respect something that's personal. And hopefully we can take one

of the empty houses around it and make it some sort of activity centre."

But, there's a question of funding to get these things done. Due to the fact that the park is privately owned, government funding is not readily available. Tanya made this concern clear. "We aren't paid to do this," she said. "We're just volunteering, and we have jobs and bills to pay, so we can't do this every day." Still, she hopes that their continued work on the project will inspire the government and other people to help them. ☺

✍ S. ALESSIO TUMMOLILLO
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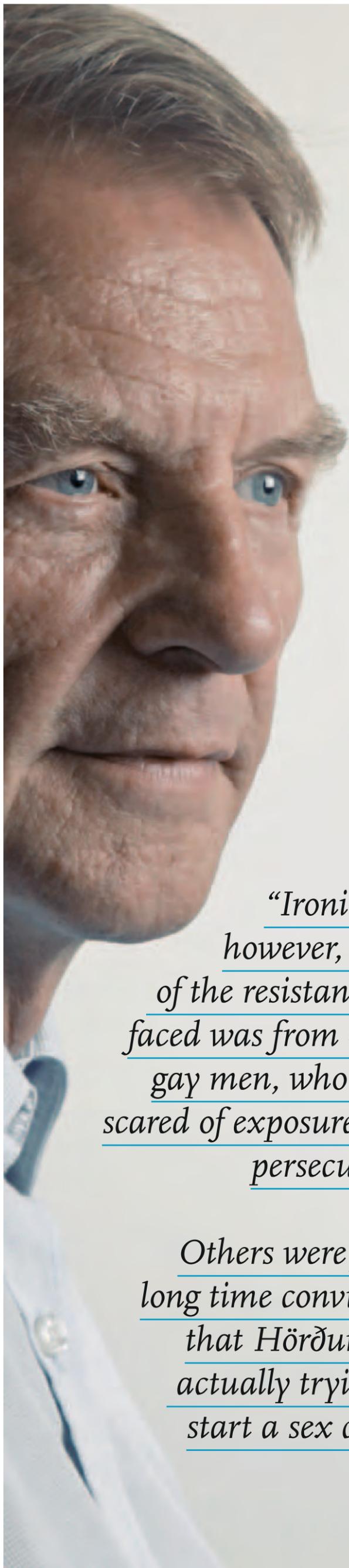


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“Ironically, however, most of the resistance he faced was from other gay men, who were scared of exposure and persecution.”

Others were for a long time convinced that Hörður was actually trying to start a sex club.”

Hörður Torfason—troubadour, songwriter, actor, director and human rights activist—is one of Iceland's living legends. In recent memory, he was the organising force behind the Pots and Pans Revolution of 2008–2009, and has been invited to bring his philosophy on activism to Spain, Mexico, and further afield. However, he also happens to be Iceland's first openly gay man. I met Hörður over lunch to talk about the trials and triumphs that brought him to where he is today.

From a young age, Hörður showed an aptitude for music.

“We always had music in my family,” he says. “I express myself a lot through music. Where other people write in diaries, I write songs.”

Even at a tender age, his passion for sticking up for the downtrodden was evident. The first song he ever composed, at the age of 12, was about a man living in a piano box down by Reykjavík harbour. “There's always been this strong power in me where I don't accept unjust things,” he tells me.

This would carry over into young adulthood when, at the age of 18, he was fired for suggesting that his co-workers organise a strike. Far from being a setback, at 20 he was offered a store manager position at a major company. His response was to ask for a week to think about it. During this time, he came to the conclusion that retail management—as well as it would have paid—would not be for him. “I made a decision never to be what I'm not: to be true to myself.” And so, to the surprise of his family and the owners of the company, he declined the offer.

But Hörður had larger issues to grapple with around that time, namely his sexuality.

“I knew I was gay,” he says. “I didn't have the word for it, but I just knew it. And according to many people around me, it was wrong. I was a criminal. I was told I was a paedophile. I didn't get any information about the matter, and everyone told me to be quiet about it. I knew I was gay when I was about 15. You know that you're different, but you just hide it in the beginning. I never accepted that I was some criminal, or something very wrong, but just that I was different. I was fine with being who I am. But other people weren't.”

The role of the artist

While considering his path in life, Hörður first turned his attention to acting.

“I was very shy, so I decided to go into a private acting school, to learn how to, well, speak up.” Private school led to the National Theatre's school for acting and, at 24, he graduated as an actor. Hörður, always one to have more than one iron in the fire, had contracts

for two LPs at the time.

He mentions this offhandedly, as if being an actor, lyricist and a signed musician went fairly naturally together. So I asked what led him into music and, specifically, how he came to be Iceland's first troubadour.

Folk music, he tells me, was pretty popular at the time, and he was drawn to it as well. But while most people were forming trios, Hörður decided specifically to go solo, for largely pragmatic reasons. “I don't want to spend my time waiting for other people,” he says. “I hate it when people are late for rehearsal. So I decided I'll go on my own. And that's the way I've always worked.”

And work he did, playing impassioned songs about life, beauty and struggle for people around the country and at parties in Reykjavík.

Shortly thereafter, Hörður went to Denmark, where he came to a realisation about art that would have a lasting effect on his life's work.

“I came to the conclusion that the role of the artist is to speak out, to fight the misuse of power,” he tells me. “Being popular is not going to be a big part of my life. That's not going to be my job and it's never been. I just follow my heart.”

Also around this time, he began to see how fighting the misuse of power applied to gay rights. Discovering the gay movement in Scandinavia, he began to read up on history, from Magnus Hirschfeld to F-48. And how did this apply to his everyday life?

“I discovered that I could be famous and get a lot of money if I shut up about who I was, my nature. But at the same time, I'd see gay people in Reykjavík being beaten up. I could not accept this.”

Unbeknownst to him at the time, he would end up being the catalyst for precisely the sort of change he wanted to see.

The ambush

In 1975, a journalist from the magazine Samuel contacted Hörður to discuss the gay scene in Reykjavík. He agreed to meet him and they spoke at length about some of the ways the gay scene operated at the time.

“I thought he wanted to talk about the issue. What I didn't know is that

he recorded it.” The journalist revealed that he had recorded the conversation at the end of the talk, adding the caveat that he believed Hörður had agreed to meet him out of a sexual interest.

Rather than exploding into a rage or demanding the tape be burned, Hörður offered to do another interview, even more in depth than the one he had just done. The journalist accepted, but it wasn't to be—instead, the journalist went on vacation, and Samuel's editors decided to run the ambush interview.

Hörður's life changed literally overnight. On the day that issue of Samuel hit the stands Hörður was busy filming a movie and he recalls that passersby were giving him strange looks on the street. It wasn't until a shop owner pointed out the interview to him that he understood why, and that's when things got ugly.

“My telephone was filled with threats. But people didn't believe this when I told them. They had this attitude that this was such a good, nice society. I was silenced, totally. The only solution for me was to move away.”

Hörður once again went to Denmark and sank into a deep depression. At 32, he decided to commit suicide.

“I was determined that I was going to do this. But then I understood how deeply I would hurt my parents and family. I couldn't take that. So instead, I went out and had a beer in the middle of the day for the first time,” he says, laughing. “I celebrated life doing that.”

Following his renewed love for life, he decided to take the persecution he had faced in Iceland and transform it: he would form a gay rights organisation, which would come to be known as Samtökin 78.

The Icelandic gay rights movement begins

While today Samtökin 78 is well known for being an active and vibrant lobby, it certainly didn't start out that way. While trying to start his gay rights club, Hörður went into directing amateur theatre, and played his guitar on weekends, although he says no one would come to the shows.

Ironically, however, most of the resistance he faced was from other gay men, who were scared of exposure and persecution. Others were for a long time convinced that Hörður was actually trying to start a sex club.

Frustrated by the hesitance of others, he penned letters to every gay man he knew in Reykjavík, informing them of the fledgling group's first meeting, in his home. “That upset most of them, because they were concerned their parents would open the letter. And I said,

YOU CANNOT PUT RULES ON LOVE

AN INTERVIEW WITH HÖRÐUR TORFASON

By [Paul Fontaine](#) Photography by [Hörður Sveinsson](#)

'If you're worried about your parents reading your letters, what are you? This is a fact: you are gay, I am gay. And we need to stick together.'

The confusion others had over whether Hörður was trying to start a sex club or not persisted, with one man telling him, "I don't need to join any organisation to get laid." Bizarrely, some even quoted the Bible to him on the sinfulness of homosexuality. In the end, though, he managed to convince some of them to help him form Samtökin 78.

Meanwhile, Hörður began touring again in the countryside. He says at first no one would come to his shows apart from the house managers of the clubs and cafés where he played. Little by little, though, as his tours circled the country, year after year, these house managers would bring their friends and family. Over a period of two decades, the crowds—and the tolerance of others—began to grow.

Hörður says this was for instance evident in the way that teachers would approach him, asking for help with how to deal with a gay student in their classes. He was pleasantly surprised to see teachers wanting to confront the issue, rather than ignore it.

Hörður's open, personable nature disarmed the fears and prejudices of others regarding gay people.

"People would tell me, 'You're very different from what I thought you would be'. And that's when I thought, OK, this is working. A big part of my job is being there for people. Be an honest person, and people come to you."

At this point in the interview, Hörður cannot help but reflect on how, in the face of tolerance, there are still some aspects of Icelandic society that stand in the way.

"The main problem comes from the church," he says. "I never really talked about this openly. The people aren't the problem. If you talk to people, they're maybe not gay themselves but they respect you as you are. But then comes the church. They put conditions on love. And that to me is unacceptable. You cannot put rules on love."

From Crash To Revolution

This leads us to politics. Issues of class and abuse of power are prevalent in Hörður's songs, and his growing activism reflects these issues that are close to his heart.

"I tell people, 'I'm not demonstrating. I'm fighting for a better life.' I think aloud, ask questions, seek answers. I knew there was corruption in this country. But I never thought in my wildest dreams that the banks would crash. We have been told lie after lie

after lie, and people just accept them. They say 'þetta reddast' ['it'll all work out'], until it affects them personally, and then they come screaming."

The 2008 economic collapse of Iceland would send Hörður's life path in a whole new direction—one that would take him beyond the bounds of even his own country.

Hörður had been active in protesting the deportation of Kenyan asylum seeker Paul Ramses, who was brought back to Iceland and now lives here. So when the banks collapsed and an angry crowd gathered in front of the Central Bank on October 10, 2008, Hörður went to see for himself. The organiser

"A society that does not embrace everyone is no longer a society - it has become a private club that is dangerous and destructive to all its citizens."

of the event, who had never expected a crowd of the size that had gathered and was quite overwhelmed, gladly gave control of the rally to Hörður. He then invited people to move the protests to Austurvöllur, the park in front of parliament. And it was there that history was made.

Not everything went according to plan, though. Other groups came into the fray and wanted to take over, even with violence. "I told them, look—I have the authority's permission to do this here on Saturdays at 15.00. And you are stepping into what I am doing. My meetings are without violence—I use reason, and I do not hide my face. To me, freedom does not wear a mask. Make your own protests; there is plenty of space and time for you. I only use three hours at Austurvöllur on Saturdays; the rest of the week is yours."

More and more people began to gather in front of parliament, week after week, and it was in fact Hörður who put the "pots and pans" in the Pots and Pans Revolution. On January 17, 2009, he told those in attendance in front of parliament, "Go home, polish your pots and pans, and start training your voices because I will ask you to use them very soon. And next Tuesday, we will stand in front of this house, and make a lot of noise, because these people keep telling us to keep quiet."

While popular support was growing, and even the police were getting along civilly with him for the most part, public opinion towards him would hit a nasty bump in the road when then Prime Minister Geir H. Haarde announced that he had cancer. Hörður ac-

cused the prime minister of making a ploy for sympathy. The rhetoric against Hörður, in the blog world and in the media, was brutal. Looking back, would he do anything differently?

Hörður emphatically stands by what he said, explaining, "I don't get paid one crown for what I do and I don't take this shit. You do not come as a prime minister and say, 'I have cancer, feel sorry for me, don't criticise the work I do.' I would never, ever bring forward a personal problem in my work. It has nothing to do with what I'm doing. I never spoke of the cancer of the man nor would I attack a sick person. What I criticised was that he was using this,

his sickness, to get sympathy. I mean, how dare they do this? There's a lot more at stake than their personal life."

Nonetheless, Hörður would press on until the beginning of March 2009, when he withdrew after all three demands of the protesters in his camp—the resignation of the government, the Central Bank chairman (Morgunblaðið editor Davíð Oddsson) and the directorship of the Financial Supervisory Authority—had been met.

"What people have to understand is that I do not do this kind of work to get rich or get into power. It is my work as an artist and sometimes words are not enough. Action is needed. And I step forward to ask people to help me. The reason is that I simply want to live a good life and I wish the same for everyone, but that does not come free. We have to fight for it. We must stay awake to protect our freedom and welfare, because out there are always people who will misuse our trust and try to steal it from us. And these people don't use kind, polite methods.

"Like I've said to the people in Spain, Sweden, Greece, Mexico and Iceland: stay awake, don't give up. There is always a way. It takes time. Maybe it doesn't succeed today, but there comes another day tomorrow. Let's use the politicians, talk to them, make clear demands. Make them listen to us. That is what they are for. Let's make them work properly. Do what we, the people, want and need. Everyone can make a mistake: individuals, nations, parliaments. Let's take a good look into our own garden. A society that does not embrace everyone is no longer a society—it has

become a private club that is dangerous and destructive to all its citizens. When we, the people, have reached this point, the politicians have failed us and they are serving the minority who are sick from greed. Let us correct the situation and work together."

Always the optimist

Hörður's attention now, as then, concerns Iceland's new constitution, a draft of which is currently being polished by a 25-person committee for submission to parliament.

"I think whatever they come up with is going to be better than what we have now. The power structure in this country is so sick, so corrupted. There's going to be a lot of fights this coming winter. I mean, a new constitution: are we going to let the politicians and their rich friends take it and destroy it? Or are we going to get a new constitution and a better society? I cannot imagine the people in power saying, 'Alright.' They are not going to accept this. Have you noticed how well they live? I don't mind people getting rich, but the parliament members are working for us, the people. Yet they seem to have the attitude that we are their slaves. They have lost the people's trust and we must change this situation for the better. It will take time."

Hörður would rather see the committee tour the country, explaining all the proposed changes to the new constitution, and then have the document put to referendum. He is currently in meetings with a number of people, discussing plans for demonstrations in front of parliament, in order to try to influence the new constitution's fate.

I asked him what advice he might pass on to the younger generations of Iceland's gay community. Facing his autumn years with a smile—and still with plenty of energy to spare and no intention of stopping—he said, "What I'm telling younger people today is, don't fall asleep. We fought for this. What you have today didn't come for free. I'm not sitting around crying because of this, but I really fought and sacrificed. The clock can easily turn back. There are signs of it in Europe, and it may well come here."

Having said that, Hörður remains, as always, an optimist.

"I am very confident they will find a way by themselves. I don't believe in giving advice to people, unless they come in person. Because coming out can be a very difficult decision. I just wish them luck along with the rest of the people in this world." ☺

"I came to the conclusion that the role of the artist is to speak out, to fight the misuse of power."

Welcome to Reykjavík Gay Pride!

For the thirteenth time we celebrate Gay Pride in Reykjavík. Our cosy little pride, originally visited by some fifteen hundred onlookers, has blossomed and evolved into a colourful four-day celebration that attracts well over 80 thousand guests from all over the world. Reykjavík Gay Pride is, in fact, one of the biggest small Prides in the world.

Gay Pride is an unquestionably important event for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Iceland. The festival promotes visibility and courage and provides us with a platform to manifest our pride before our fellow citizens. The celebrations not only mark a successful stage in our struggle, but they are also one of the most vibrant and popular events on Reykjavík's cultural calendar. By participating in the event in such large numbers, the Icelandic people have shown us valuable support, recognition and respect.

This year, we have organised a programme that runs from August 4 to 7, combining a colourful array of Icelandic artists and varied events. Even though our nation's economy has seen brighter days, the Reykjavík Gay Pride aims to promote joy, solidarity and support for one another during times of hardship.

I welcome you all to the thirteenth annual Reykjavík Gay Pride and wish you a wonderful time!

Þorvaldur Kristinnsson
President of Reykjavík Gay Pride



Reykjavík's Secret History

An inside look at Reykjavík LGBT History & Culture Walk



When Hilmar Magnússon decided to create the Reykjavík LGBT History & Culture Walk this summer, he admits that he wasn't sure how it would go over. There had previously been tours offering similar services, but they were only run once a year during Gay Pride Week. Hilmar wondered if there was enough interest to sustain the tours more regularly, and discovered a dormant market.

On the tour, Hilmar combines stories of the LGBT nightlife in Reykjavík

with stories concerning change in legislation, penal codes, and the struggle for human rights with the goal of helping people to discover some of the history and culture of the LGBT community in Reykjavík. Through these discoveries, he hopes to ignite discussions about the topics.

Though the tour is called "Reykjavík LGBT History & Culture Walk", and is likely to mostly draw the attention of the LGBT community, he stresses that it's an enlightening experience for ev-

eryone. "It's a chance to hear about this hidden history, about things you've probably never heard about or even considered, to explore another side of Reykjavík," Hilmar says. "I think it's important for LGBT people to learn their own history, but it's equally important for others to get to know it as well. Knowing the history might lead to a better understanding and less prejudice. On top of that, it's just great fun."

Be it during Gay Pride Weekend or at a later date, the LGBT History & Culture Walk is worth doing. At the very least, you will get to explore another side of Reykjavík that you may not have even known existed. SAT

The tour, which starts at Trúnó (Laugavegur 22) will run in English on August 4 and 5 at 14:00, and on August 7 at 15:30. It will run in Icelandic on August 7 at 16:30. The minimum number of participants is 5 and the maximum is 20. Tickets cost 2500 ISK. Ten percent of the proceeds will be donated to Reykjavík Gay Pride and another ten percent will be donated to UNICEF.

The tour can be booked calling Hilmar at 867 3919 or e-mailing him at hilmar.magnusson@gmail.com. Additional information can be found on the Facebook page: "Reykjavík LGBT History & Culture Walk."

Gay Pride Takes The Cake

The Icelandic LGBT community achieved an especially exciting feat this year; the Reykjavík Human Rights Prize was awarded to Gay Pride. The prize is given annually to a person, group or organisation dedicated to helping their community with a humanitarian cause. "After 13 years of hard work," Gay Pride President Þorvaldur Kristinnsson said, "Reykjavík gay pride was (finally!) nominated and presented with this honourable prize, and it's of course great encouragement for our work here because what I see as most important in any queer struggle is the struggle for visibility in a heterosexual society."

Gay Pride, which attracts nearly 90 thousand people nationwide, or one fourth of Iceland's population, has been especially instrumental to the Icelandic LGBT community. "It's somewhat of an amazement," Þorvaldur remarked. "Every year after Gay Pride people come out to families and friends and gradually to society as a whole." Encouragement for the LGBT community through attendance at the festival as well as the city council's formal recognition of their outstanding efforts have helped to create a positive environment for sexual minorities in Reykjavík. ML

Pink Iceland

A travel service catering to the LGBT Community



Last March, Eva María Þórarinsdóttir and Birna Hrönn Björnsdóttir (not pictured) launched Pink Iceland, a travelling service catering specifically to the LGBT Community. Since there are "a lot of gay tourists coming to Iceland, it's important to have very gay friendly services," Eva said. With a heavy influx of tourists circulating through Iceland, the couple figured it was time to offer an agency that would introduce newcomers to LGBT-friendly services, including tours, accommodation, events, restaurants and nightlife.

Not only has this proved to be a hit, but they have also attracted couples from across the globe that want to have

their wedding ceremonies in Iceland. "We didn't think of it in the beginning, but obviously a lot of countries don't allow gay marriage, so Iceland is a good destination for gay weddings," explained Eva. This new trend has created even more business for Eva and Birna.

The couple also own popular nightclubs Trúnó and Barbara, which share the same building and have been deemed the "Queer Palace." Next week will be an especially exciting time for the club, as they will have international guests performing for Gay Pride. As Eva put it, "It's going to be a completely queer week." ML

Visit www.pinkiceland.is for more info.

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GAY PRIDE 2011 PROGRAMME



THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

09:00 The Official Pride Club Trúnó opens

16:00 Press Meeting in English at the Queer Center, Laugavegur 3, 4th floor.

20:00 Opening Ceremony at Háskólabíó Movie Theater, Hagatorg, 107 Reykjavík.

Hafsteinn Þórólfsson, Never the Bride, Hnotubrjótarnir, Bloodgroup, and MaryJet will perform, followed by a Pride Party with free beverages. Admission 1800 ISK. VIP Cards valid.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

09:00 Pride Club Trúnó opens

20:00 Classic Pride at Harpa Concert Hall – Northern Lights Auditorium. The concert features eleven Icelandic classical musicians. Free admission.

21:30 Queer Cruise from the Reykjavík Old Harbour, Ægisgarður. Admission 2000 ISK. VIP Platinum valid.

23:00 Boys Dance at Club Barbara. Admission 1500 ISK. VIP Cards valid.

23:00 Queer Cruise Party at Club Trúnó. Free admission.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

09:00 Pride Club Trúnó opens for the parade warm-up

12:00 Pride Parade line-up at Vatnsmýrarvegur (close to the BSI Bus Terminal)

14:00 Gay Pride Parade starts down Sóleyjargata, Fríkirkjuvegur and Lækjargata to Arnarhóll.

15:30 Outdoor Concert at Arnarhóll, a grassy hill between Kalkofnsvegur, Hverfisgata, Ingólfsstræti and the Central Bank of Iceland. Performers include Paul Oscar, Lay Low, The Esoteric Gender, Never the Bride, Gunni & Felix, MaryJet, Bloodgroup, and Hera Björk

00:00 Girls Dance with DJ Kolla at Club SQUARE on Lækjartorg. 1500 ISK. VIP Cards valid.

00:00 Pride Dance at Club Barbara. VIP Cards valid.

00:00 Pride Dance with DJ Paul Oscar at NASA. VIP Cards valid.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

09:00 Pride Club Trúnó opens

14:30 Rainbow Family Festival on Viðey Island with entertainment and games. Boats start sailing at 11:15

17:00 Elin Ey and other entertainers at Trúnó

20:00 Lab Loki Theater Company presents The Traitor at Tjarnarbíó Theater. An actor takes on a journey into Jean Genet's world. Performed in Icelandic. Admission 1000 ISK.

Bíó Paradís
Queer films shown at the movie theater Bíó Paradís at Hverfisgata 54 throughout the festival week. More information: www.bioparadis.is

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GEYSIR

The Brain Behind Zombie Iceland

Author Nanna Árnadóttir interviewed



Journalist, writer, and survivalist Nanna Árnadóttir has just published her first book, called 'Zombie Iceland.' As you may have gleaned from the title, it's a book about zombies in Iceland! But not only is it a wonderfully written fiction to be enjoyed by zombie enthusiasts, but it's also an artfully written guide to Iceland, making it ideal reading for the tourist that's looking for an alternative to the Lonely Planet. Just how did Nanna come up with a zombie apocalypse travel guide to Iceland? We met up with her after her book launch/zombie party to pick her brain...

What inspired you to write a book about zombies?

As a lifelong zombie fanatic, I've spent many hours mapping out how to survive a zombie apocalypse. Every respectable zombie aficionado has. Inspiration for the book however came about when I was running down Ægisíða. I was getting in shape for the zombie apocalypse—no lie, this was my reasoning—and I imagined I was being chased by zombies in order to cope with my overwhelming desire to stop moving, lay down on the pavement and eat some ice cream. That's where the first chapter came from, Barbara running away from zombies on Ægisíða. I had intended it as a short story, but then I just kept going and going.

So you've been preparing for a zombie apocalypse?

Well, you know what they say, "Some people worry, others prepare." I saw that on a website that sells underground bunkers. My dad and I were having a look but he decided against it. He was like "If we put a bunker in the backyard now, everyone will see and come to us when shit hits the fan. We only have so many guns and food reserves Nanna, we have to be practical." Oh man, I've said too much. He's going to be really mad at me because now everyone will know that we have food reserves and they'll come to our house if there's ever any trouble!

It's not so unusual for people to have earthquake preparedness kit, but a zombie apocalypse kit?

Maybe it's pushing it to say that it's a zombie apocalypse kit. Technically it could work for an alien invasion or a world event too. It sounds so nuts when

I say it out loud. Of course I don't genuinely believe a zombie apocalypse is going to happen but I also don't think that I'll get into an accident when I get into a car, but I still buckle my seatbelt.

You have wonderful footnotes explaining Icelandic things. How did you come up with that idea?

They came about because as I was writing in English I realised I would have next to no market in Iceland. So I started writing it for my friends abroad and then I realised that they wouldn't know what "Ora baunir" were or where to go to an English AA meeting in Iceland, so I started adding footnotes and it ended up being an informative tourist book as well as a novel and possibly an elaborate self indulgent fantasy.

And then there's the zombie apocalypse track list featuring Icelandic musicians. Are they integral to the plot at each stage?

The idea is that yeah, the music narrates the novel in its own way. To begin with it hadn't occurred to me that the playlist should be exclusively Icelandic music. Really it was my friend Matti's idea. He said "Hey if this is about educating people on Iceland why not introduce them to Icelandic music too and not just Björk and Sigur Rós but talented, fairly unknown acts." And it just clicked. What a great way to shed light on such an industrious part of our culture.

Should the reader play them while reading?

Yes, on pain of death by the undead! I jest, I jest. That would be great and in an ideal world, a reader would do that, especially since we've done everything we can to make it easy and free by cooperating with gogoyoko.com.

There are some wonderful characters in your book. Are they based on real people? Did you know a boy who collected farts in jars?

I have an obsession with jars. I'm playing around with ideas for a new book and now I'm obsessed with the idea of a rickety old woman who disconnects from society and begins to collect strands of her hair into jars then creates this bedtime ritual around smelling the hair jars. I have a fetish for writing about people who are strange but not aggressive, like Skúli the Ice Cream guy and Georg, the fart collector. But to answer your question, no I don't know a boy

who collected farts in jars. Although it seems like something a young boy would do, don't you think?

Uhhh...

I digress... the characters. Barbara is everything I wish I was and try to be. Brave, tough and calm under pressure and Lóa is the little voice in my head that I never show because then I would be completely ostracised from society and it's hard enough for nerds already.

Zombie movies like 'Dawn of the Dead,' which takes place in a shopping mall and serves as a critique on consumerism, often carry messages about our society. Given the Kreppa and all of the anger here, are you sending any kind of message in Zombie Iceland? Are Icelanders becoming zombies?

That's a hard question. If I say yes, Icelanders are going to be mad at me for saying so and I can't help but think that in a lot of ways Icelanders have dealt brilliantly with the aftermath of 2008. People are growing their own food, making their own clothes, spending more time with family and friends. People are still fat, and higher education and healthcare are still essentially free. So we're doing well.

But if I say no, then I'm lying.

It's hard not to be critical when the conservative party, which was a large part of what drove us into this mess to begin with, are gaining popularity and power again. Do my countrymen have the memory of a gold fish? It baffles me.

If there is any kind of message in my book though it's in the way that the zombie outbreak begins. In the book, Iceland is building yet another, completely unnecessary and exploitative power plant, wrecking some beautiful part of our country when there's an explosion at the construction site and the zombie virus spreads. So in a way I'm sending a "stop fucking with our nature" message. I'm not even a die-hard nature nut, I like being inside where I have easy access to a toilet. But I know that what we have in Iceland is special and deserves to be treated with dignity and sacrificing our countryside to build plants to produce energy we don't need is just plain disrespectful. ☘

In case of a zombie apocalypse, the emergency number in Iceland is 112.

✉ ANNA ANDERSEN
☎ JULIA STAPLES



Chapter Two

Zombie Apocalypse Playlist Track 2

The Great Escape by Jeff Who?

Twenty-four Hours Earlier.

Barbara scraped her auburn hair into a ponytail then rubbed her moss-green skinny jeans with the pockets on the side of the knees. She couldn't store anything in them, they were just for show. She felt sticky with sweat under her loose black t-shirt and lopapeysa⁵ but it was her nerves that were getting the best of her, not the wool. "Fuck! Fuck, shite, tits, fuck. I don't know the fucking code! Jónsi? What's the fucking code? Is he picking up?" Barbara's eyes were bulging out with panic. A lump of vomit clogged her throat as she stared the safe down. "Jónsi? For fuck's sake is he picking up?"

"Huh?" her teenage brother grunted from the living room.

"Is dad⁶ answering the phone?"

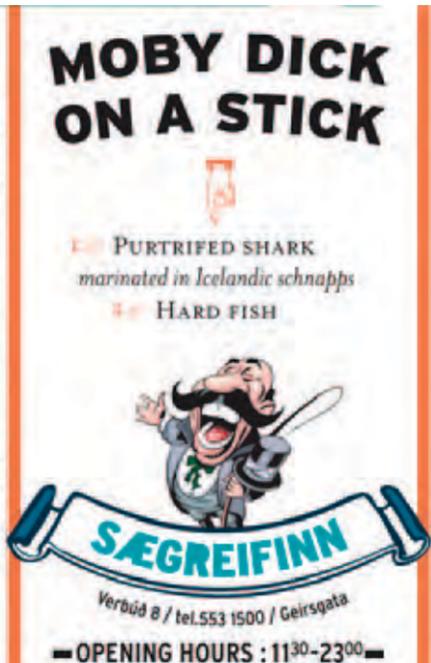
"I'm not calling him, so how am I supposed to know?" Jónsi's voice

⁵ Lopapeysa is a traditional Icelandic sweater that is characterised by a yoke design which is a wide decorative circle around the neck opening. The yarn used is called lopi and is made from the wool of Icelandic sheep. The wool is not spun so as to increase the sweater's insulation. According to the Handknitting Association of Iceland, Icelanders have been knitting since the 16th century but the lopapeysa is relatively young. The origin of the Icelandic lopapeysa is disputed. Some believe the lopapeysa was inspired by the Greenlandic national women's costume while others suggest it is connected to sweaters made in southern Sweden. However, the Handknitting Association of Iceland believe these to be far-fetched theories and that there may come a day when the creator of the Icelandic lopapeysa comes to light.

⁶ In Icelandic the word for dad is 'pabbi'. Just so you know.

Ten Things To Do in The Event of a Zombie Apocalypse

1. Don't Panic.
2. Don't get sentimental, the zombie won't.
3. Secure the apartment; zombies come over without calling first.
4. Knives, guns and ammo, find them, use them.
5. Secure the food supplies, zombies eat, why shouldn't you?
6. Rob the pharmacy, zombies won't get the flu, but you might.
7. Get the generator ready in preparation of black out.
8. Don't take chances and trust no one, especially someone zombie shaped.
9. Stay away from windows, somehow zombies know to break through them exactly when you're standing too close.
10. Stay inside.



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Words

Valgerður Þóroddsdóttir

Photography

Alisa Kalyanova

Outside the concert venue, face flushed pink to match his undersized varsity jacket, Berndsen looked exultant.

Honestly, it was probably all the jumping—a pigmentary euphoria triggered by his onstage synthpop-hop and ensuing gulps of oxygen. I mean here the awkward, overstated stage presence that is as crucial to the charms of his Italo disco act as his kitsch, pó-mó wardrobe. But perhaps the blush was also tinted by pride—a well-deserved elation at having been chosen, according to a press release for the concert, by the headliners themselves to open the show. The main act being in this case Aussie electro band

Cut Copy who, after touring extensively with powerhouses such as Franz Ferdinand and Daft Punk among others, gained international recognition with their sophomore release, 'In Ghost Colors,' which debuted at number one on the Australian music sales charts in 2008 before going on to sell Gold.

À la the spirit of our times, Cut Copy is a band that feigns apathy while actually taking what they do wholly seriously—which is ironic, but not in the usual hipster sense. From the moment they stepped on stage at NASA they appeared wholesomely professional. With an affectation of effortlessness, they spun out electric rhythms tenaciously reworked to maturity to come in at the feet, not the ear.

'So Haunted' kicked off the show, one of the eight singles the band would go on to play out of a set of twelve songs from their three albums. It was a Wednesday night and attendance was fair for a weekday. By 'Blink & You'll Miss A Revolution,' a young man was puking beside the bar. The band meanwhile looked sober and focused—their shirts soaked steadily with sweat, the set's halfway point was flagged by the line of perspiration on Dan Whit-

ford's shirt (post-gig, the vocalist and frontman made a point of saying he showered immediately following every show.)

The live set was notably more raucous than the highly-produced studio versions of the band's repertoire. Loud, and somewhat gritty, the live version was much more dynamic than one might have expected; it was everything it should have been: not simply a rehashing of the album, but a living, breathing creature of its own.

Alas, when a band is good—especially, when a band makes good on its promises... mainly, takes themselves seriously for the benefit of their music, rather than their ego, and appears to be enjoying themselves while doing it—one does not even want to do the only thing one can do for a band as an observer, which is to shower the experience with description. Rather the pen comes down, because the feet are moving. Red in the face, we find it all becomes simple again. Complicatedly effortless. Like love. Like lights. Like music. ☺

Music | Reviews



Saktmóðigur

Guð hann myndi gráta

saktmodigur

The first thing you notice about Saktmóðigur's first album in thirteen years is not the music. It's the rather fetching layout design. Opening up in the shape of a cross, it shows what can only be described as a bizarre initiation ceremony to some gay S&M bear biker club (Kópavogur chapter). You see it all, cellulite and everything!

The music? Well it's a bit of a mixed bag. Playing OLD school punk (think: Vice Squad from 1982), it sounds dry, rough and ragged. Some songs do zip by ('Formingi,' 'Kjöt'), but other songs really lack an explosive energy, and occasionally feel like they're running

Needs to take a rest every once in a while...

out of steam towards the end. I was serious worried at some points ('2007', 'Hey þú') that lead singer Karl was in danger of rupturing a testicle trying to reach the high notes.

'Guð hann myndi gráta' is definitely old school fun, but does feel a little too old school. ☺ - BOB CLUNESS

When people historicise musical genres they always look for flashpoints and influences that 'caused' a band or something to happen. Punk, for instance, wouldn't have happened were it not for the woeful state of the world at the time, apparently. Can't have decent music without some anger and pain, right? And you always get some jerk saying "well, y'know...the government sucks and the world's going to hell... at least we'll get some decent, pissed-off sounding bands now."

Well, it's my turn to be that jerk: Given what's been going on in Iceland over the last few years, it was only a matter of time before a band like

World Narcosis came along. You can tell when bands are just imitating other aggressive bands. And you can tell when bands are genuinely angry. There is an energy to the playing, to the vocals, to the feel of the songs and the lyrics. This 7" has got it. World Narcosis aren't the finished deal yet, but they have the potential to become something pretty awesome indeed, and this 7" is a great debut. If you're into grind or harsh music in general, then check it out. ☺ - CLYDE BRADFORD



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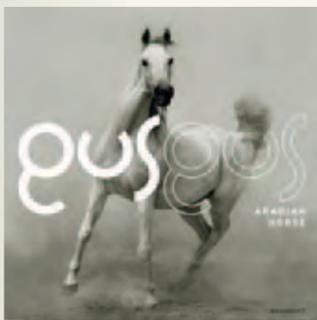
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Young Hearts

LungA turns eleven



This July 10 to 17 marked the 11-year anniversary of the LungA young artists' festival in the far-eastern town of Seyðisfjörður. Following a weeklong workshop process in visual and performance art—hosted by some of this country's leading artists—the festival culminated in a weekend of art openings, performances and concerts. We sent our two youngest (and brightest) journalists to report on their experiences at the blowout celebration.

Words

Valgerður Þóroddsdóttir & Melkorka Lincea

Photography

Alisa Kalyanova

FRIDAY

12:00 We follow the one winding road that zigzags over the Fjarðarheiði mountain pass. Meandering onto a downward slope where the small town sits cradled like a pearl in the clasp of a clam. Narrow tumbling waterfalls appearing in chorus as the matted black rocks caress the water's base, like burnt embers embracing a fire. The fog hovers just above my line of sight. We have finally reached Seyðisfjörður. **ML**

18:00 The festival has rounded up a collection of houses throughout the town, provided to official participants in LungA. The house allocated to us is a tan, modest home, nestled about a three-minute walk from the main festivities. The living room—with its autumn coloured floral rugs and upholstered club chairs—has the feeling of a cosy 1960's artists' hangout. A handful of musicians including members from Jón Þór and Muted, are staying in the house as well. Bjarni Rafn Kjartansson (of Muted), who was one of the last to arrive, commented: "when I first walked in, I thought you guys were all close friends." Though most of us had just met, after only a few hours of lounging and conversing the feeling of camaraderie was unavoidable. The premise was buzzing with friendly faces, like a

dorm building on the first day of college. **ML**

22:30 At Herðubreið community centre in the heart of town, Árni Sveinsson's documentary, *Backyard*, is screened. There is not an empty seat in the theatre, and the audience is effusive, roistering after each musical interlude. The pacing of the film matches the stamina of the audience—which is to say, the spirit of the festival—and immediately the air takes on the jovial, furry feel of life in the wake of one's first beer. It was as though the temperament of LungA—and the anticipation for the nights to come—had been distilled into 70 homemade minutes. **VP**

23:45 I ask a boy from Akureyri what he thought of the movie. "Reykjavík hipsters," he says, "act like everything is so effortless. Like, 'oh, I have a cold, but I'm just going to perform this concert anyway!'" I'm not sure what the problem is. Isn't feigning effortlessness what being a hipster is all about? **VP**

00:00 The police car yields as I amble across the street, sipping on a plastic glass of wine. I lift the glass upward as I pass—as if to brazenly indicate, 'cheers, officer.' He raises his hand in turn, as if to say, 'cheers, young, drunk person.' **VP**

01:00 A party in a neat, spacious house at the top of the hill. With a view over the inlet, and the community centre below, where four Danish DJs—advertised as "foreign"—are holding court. A member of the lucky band awarded with this, the homeliest of donated accommodations, describes the town's charm in terms of its abundance of waterfalls: "The hills," he says, "are lactating." **VP**

SATURDAY

13:00 Heading towards the main street along the inlet, I can see and hear the improv workshop group running in a chaotic huddle, dressed in matching white T-shirts. "Generosity!" they shout in chorus as they cross the street suddenly, causing cars to stop and pedestrians to shuffle to get out of their way. Björn Thors, the group's instructor, follows from a distance with a notebook in one hand, his son in the other. Two young boys on bicycles also watch from a distance, not interfering, perhaps used to it. **VP**

14:00 Instead of the yellow brick road we are commanded to follow the yellow helium balloons, but the journey is equally magical. Everything comes together in the form of a vintage glass bottle, to which a string is tied to harness the balloon's freedom. Stepping

into Rake! Gunnarsdóttir's exhibit feels like a porthole into her personal nostalgia. Girlish extremities, from pink glitter and Hello Kitty, to painted women with flowers, decorate each installation. Her portrayal of memories preserved in the form of a Ziploc baggie, denote a decaying of innocence, with a tinge of exaggeration. **ML**

16:00 The musical portion of the festival has just begun. The first musician is our laidback comrade and housemate, Muted. He performs his equally relaxed DJ set created on his Macintosh laptop, featuring down-tempo electro lounge good for head bobbing and cigarette smoking. The loitering crowd, though hung-over from the previous night, seems to slowly be crawling out from their dwellings, music over the PA system serving as their alarm clock. **ML**

17:00 Sardine sauna, layered with hipsters. Through the windows of the pool I can hear Klive begin to play. Outside in the concert area, people pass through: in and out, stopping in the grass to drink a beer, off again to prep for dinner. **VP**

17:30 At Samkaup to buy a single-shot grill because my brother won't lend me the one he and his friends are using;

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"It's out of my hands," he says. There are plenty of grills in stock, which is more than I can say for the ostensibly waning condom reserves behind the counter. **VP**

18:00 Between acts I decide to stroll down the main drag Austurvegur, and pay a visit to Arní Sveinsson (director of Backyard). People huddled together between vehicles; the scene is reminiscent of a tailgate—the guzzling of booze and blasting of disco beats. There is a small fold up table littered with beer cans, cigarette fixings, and mittens surrounded with foldout chairs and stolen seats from the guesthouse kitchen. I had joined them with the assumption that dinner was next on schedule, but once the pint of vodka is introduced, the bad stories and ski gear keep piling on. Though the sun provided light, the evening air had an unforgiving nip. The idea of a steadfast meal was no longer a main concern. Following a bout of banter about Arnþrúður's attire and her illogical choice for fashion over comfort, we finally conclude to venture to the local restaurant and hotel, Skaftfell. **ML**

20:00 A group of four bickering, mid-fifties women occupy the table next to ours, and are clearly at home amidst the buzzing energies of small children

and drunken customers. They are all residents of Seyðisfjörður, and welcome me whole-heartedly to join them. The festival is something they had seen grow from a small gathering established by bored art-deprived teenagers, into a full-blown festival attracting Icelanders from across the country. "I think this festival is wonderful," one woman comments enthusiastically. "To have so many young people come here for a whole week and work on art has really created quite the hype for this town," she adds. "Yes, but it would be interesting to see how much it costs this town in the end," argues the sceptic of the bunch. "Last year there was a lot of drunken partying going on and I know it cost a lot to regulate and fix damages." **ML**

00:00 People are desperate to forget, aren't they? I mean, entire countries are founded on a certain historical forgetfulness. The washing away of the blood spilled the night before. And isn't it just so that we dive head first into the deep end of alcoholic oblivion? Where we can adopt a new persona, discover an internal landscape where the world melts into something bigger than our tiny, muddled heads—something more expansive and exotic than this tiny island? **VP**

00:30 Outside Herðubreið, I witness a 'balloon shakedown' as a young man climbs onto the roof of the awning and snatches the string of one of the yellow helium balloons fastened to the house. A woman in red—a red fleece—comes tearing through the crowd, grabbing him by the collar and shaking him as she presses her face to his. **VP**

01:00 Horseplay and drunken buffoonery are indeed major themes of this festival, and provide an easy playing field for singles. Come the A.M. hours smooching and 'knúsing' envelope the premises, especially at the local bar Lára. It is jam packed and even offers special LungA cocktails, which naturally include a double shot. **ML**

02:00 At Láran—the 'kaffibarinn of the east'—someone is shouting: "I'm not backwards, you see. I'm not backwards like a sailor!" Outside there are 'security' everywhere, not cops, but men walking around in vests, patrolling parking lots, picking up bottles from the street. The sound of breaking glass somehow manages not to be sinister in this environment. **VP**

03:00 The bridge serves as a kind of runway as people drunkenly pass back and forth between the dance at Herðu-

breið and Láran, on the way perhaps stopping to greet friends, perhaps looking for a moment out at the still water. A man passes by me with a beer in every available pocket. He eyes me and everyone around me leeringly, as though looking to pick a fight. A moment later a very drunk girl, being carried by one of her friends, accidentally kicks someone in the face. **VP**

03:30 Back from smoking a cigarette at the dance, my friend looks visibly agitated, and says he has just been told that he deserves to be punched for being from Reykjavík. **VP**

04:00 Daníel Ágúst performs the 1999 GusGus song 'Ladyshave' with support from the Hjaltalín band. Urður Hákonardóttir, Sigríður Thorlacius and President Bongo singing backup vocals into a single microphone, swaying in tandem, snapping with one hand, drink in the other. Everyone is dripping with sweat, clothes drooping off them, sexy. **VP**

05:00 Not being aware of the track record, someone else attempts to nab the helium balloon as his friends watch on. Yet another player on defence shuts him down, this one clearly a civilian. **VP**

06:00 A group of spun motherfuckers are gathered on a patch of grass. Avoiding sleep is like a teasing game at this point. We join in belting out Sublime, and rolling around on our backs. "What time is it?" "Uh, I think almost six" "Shit. I got a plane to catch at 11:00" "Want some magic mushrooms?" "Fuck it, why not?" **ML**

SUNDAY

13:00 The rain finally fell. Sitting at the kitchen table of the old lady's house—the woman we had never seen but who had graciously donated us her space; the woman we had probably been keeping awake for two days now—I look out the open door. The fog, which had been blanketing us for days, has finally come to enfold us, and my eyes can't reach beyond the inlet. The water still, the campsite abandoned, nothing left in the house but an empty 2 Litre Coke bottle. The door unlocked as it had always been. **VP**



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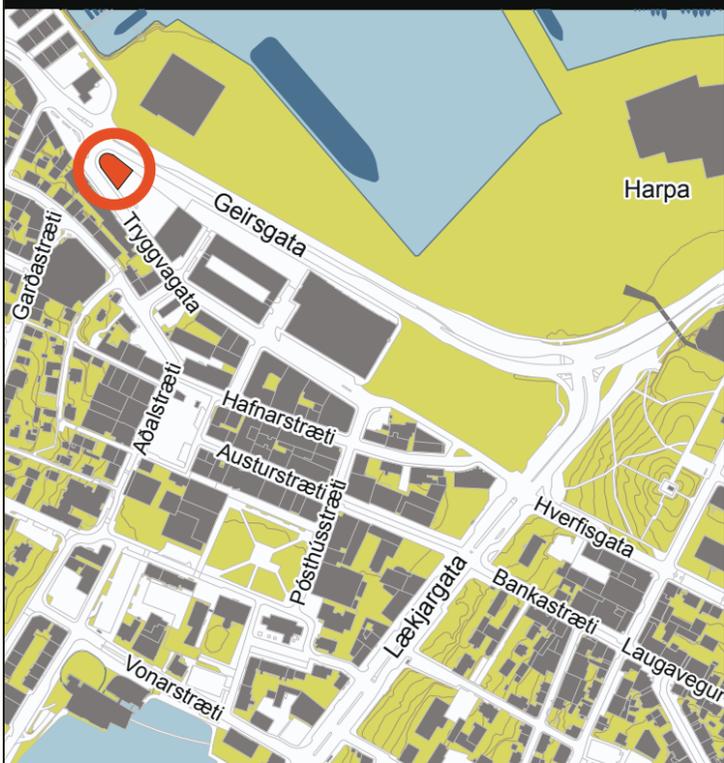
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Music | Reviews



Jón Jónsson

Wait For Fate

[jonjonsson](http://www.jonjonsson.com)

A study in musical memetics.

What is evident about Mr Jónsson is that he has absolutely impeccable taste. The title track's acoustic spins on The Beatles' 'Blackbird,' 'Ocean Girl' kicks off with the descending riff from the verses of 'Dear Prudence,' also by The Beatles of course and there's a heart-sinking moment at the outset of 'To Her' where for a split second it seems like JJ's going to launch into 'You've Gotta Hide Your Love Away.' By The Beatles.

But let's get one thing clear: this boy can sing and his vocals are of that lovely come-hither richness that slides this debut album into the middle of the pop arena, on a wave of gushing oestrogen from his audience. There's no reason with his nicey-wicey acoustically Maroon-y 5-ey melodies and good looks he can't have a chance in the mainstream. He knows how to (re)write a song, and when the emotions are real it's really emotional. 'Ocean Girl' turns out to be an excellent thick-textured piece with a crescendo building up to a very satisfying coda, and final track 'Miss You So' is genuinely moving. Although to be fair, it sounds suspiciously like 'Easy Like Sunday Morning.' By The Commodores.

✂ - JOE SHOOMAN



Dathi

Dark Days

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Don't fight it. Just let go. Head towards the light and it'll all be over soon

Today the sun is shining, people are smiling and the birds are singing. But sod that, because the doom-meister from Dalvík is back! Dathi's latest album continues where he left off at his last one, 'Self Portrait,' by ploughing the lonely furrow of being Iceland's only true exponent of apocalyptic folk. His lyrics have become even more doom-laden, brutal and pitiless. With titles such as 'Killing Me,' 'Self Abuse' and 'Please Help Me Now,' I'm actually starting to be concerned for this guy's mental health.

Ironically, his music and songcraft have gotten better. Although his voice sometimes falters on the long notes (such as on 'Buried Alive'), the music has a soft soothing feeling, with simple plucked acoustic guitar and occasional trumpet and accordion sound drifting in an out like so many bad memories.

I'm sure people will balk at the truly suicidal tone of his music, but come the clusterfucks of Menningarnótt and Verslunarmannahelgi, you'll be begging for this as your soundtrack!

✂ - BOB CLUNESS



Spacevestite

Spacevestite

[spacevestite](http://spacevestite.com)

Stay off the brown acid maaaaaaan...

What do you do when you want to get stoned and lost on a beach in California in the sixties but you are stuck in Hafnarfjörður? I don't know, but if the end result is the self-titled album by Spacevestite, I'd seriously consider laying off that shit.

How do we start? Is it the band's name, with its obvious and laboured hints at deviance? Or could it be their sound, trying to be swirling, psychedelic pop, but with annoying keyboards, Mick Jagger impersonation vocals, and production that makes it sound like a busted fly in a tin can? Or perhaps it's the corny and hackneyed ideas of what psychedelia is supposed to be, from their song titles ('Sexedelic Dance Party') to their lyrics ("I am stone away from home/ when I'm in the twilight stone." Really? I mean, REALLY?).

Basically this is an album from people who want to be all groovy and sexy, but only learned psychedelia from watching Austin Powers movies. We put Kula Shaker to the sword for crap like this, so I see no reason to stop right now.

✂ - BOB CLUNESS

Opinion | Magnús Sveinn Helgason

A Lesson In Radicalism



The Radical Summer University, organised by a group of leftists from academia and activist groups, will take place in August with a wide variety of workshops on different topics, from grass roots publishing to Marxism, psychoanalysis and radical feminism. Blogger and pundit Egill Helgason remarked that this was great news because Icelandic leftists had often confused nationalism with radicalism.

Indeed, this is important news. It is a sign of the growing vitality and strength of left wing activism in Iceland, and it demonstrates that at least part of it is rediscovering what 'radicalism' means. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, many believed that leftist politics and all leftist ideology had been completely discredited. The 'third way' was king and men like Tony Blair seemed like the future of the left.

In Iceland, this process appeared in the formation of the Social Democratic Alliance out of the two left wing parties, the heirs to the Socialist Party, the People's Alliance, and the Social Democratic People's Party, as well as the Women's List, a feminist party and The Nationalist Movement, a splinter group of the People's Alliance.

The new party followed a classic centrist 'third way' policy. A few leftists refused to join, forming the Left Greens. And since the new Social Democratic Alliance was not really a leftist party, the Left Greens were really the only Icelandic left wing party.

But it was not a very radical party. And since it came to power following the financial crash it has shown a remarkable lack of ideological vision. Even if a handful of its MPs have demonstrated that they have a grasp of left wing ideology, the party leadership

has by and large failed to provide any kind of, well leadership, when it comes to ideology.

What it has demonstrated is that it is good at management. The party chairman, Minister of Finance Steingrímur J. Sigfússon, has been able to get state finances under control. Judging by the price of Credit Default Swaps (CDS) on Icelandic government bonds, a measurement frequently cited by Sigfússon himself, the government has been pretty successful. At the end of June they were down to 240 points, the level they were at in early 2008, down from the 1000 of early 2009, and well below the cost of CDSs on many other Western European countries, meaning that international capital markets have a pretty favorable view of Icelandic state finances.

But as the party of the left, the Left Greens must point to something apart from competent management or its ability to please the global capital market. Many of its supporters seem to believe this 'something' is the fact that the party is denying the Conservatives a grip on power. In fact, the one overriding concern of many of its most ardent supporters seems to be that the conservatives must be kept out of power.

Sure, one can make the argument that by this the Left Greens are denying the Conservatives the opportunity to wreak further havoc. But denying another party access to power this is still very poor justification for a political party because at the end of the day it is politics for the sake of power.

So, the party appears to offer only two things: competent leadership and the fact that they are not the conservative party. But no positive vision for the future.

What the party elite and its most

dedicated supporters do not seem to understand is that a chief strength of the conservative party is the fact that it has an ideology. This ideology, centered around neoliberal economic policies, inspires an active radical base and provides the actions of the party with purpose and direction. While its politics have been focused on gaining, maintaining and then using power, it has also been infused with a strong ideological vision.

Now unless the Icelandic left wants to move to the center, it is probably stuck with the Left Greens as its only alternative to the Conservatives, or the only available vehicle to fight against right wing laissez faire economic policies. But if this party has no ideology or vision, it will never offer much of an alternative; in order to be a real alternative, the left has to be able to offer a real alternative vision! And this means a left wing ideology, which the institutional left in Iceland appears to lack.

Of course it would be silly to expect that a leftist summer university in radicalism will change this as most of the attendees will already be committed radicals. But, it is nonetheless an important first step toward an ideological awakening on the left. ✂

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Suffer For Fashion, Or Whatever



It was 1977, at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane. The voice, the vision, the inimitable Nina Simone erupts the audience with cheers and laughter as she chides them: "Come on girls, come on."

This moment was all I could think of as, walking home in the inextinguishable twilight of a recent summer evening, I was accosted by the shouts of a middle-aged man. Though in my hand a heel might serve as a clever weapon—a deft defence against unwarranted advances—under my foot it champions the opposite cause; stripped of its mythology, the high-heel has a practical function somewhat akin to a ball and chain. In any case I was alone, the man was drunk and presumptuous, and I felt ill prepared to face the consequences of talking back. Instead of asserting myself as a dynamic, pulsating, thinking human being, I conceded to my vulnerable position, and walked away.

And there was Nina—conjured from this, my most prized recording—sitting at her piano, quintessentially self-assured, smirking and shaking her head at me.

It is indeed laughable how easily I (among others) am enticed to be complicit in forwarding an ideology that insists that I be beautiful, idle, mute.

Part of the problem is no doubt an unwillingness to consistently think critically about the philosophical implications of fashion—and to act accordingly. I am not insensitive to the aesthetic charms of dress. No doubt we are visual creatures, and the way we present ourselves externally to the world is likely a more essential way of com-

municating with and understanding one another than most of us up on the intellectual high-horse would care to admit. But fashion need not be immune to critical study though it is susceptible to artistic whim. In a very concrete way, fashion is an expression of our personal and cultural values.

We cannot ignore, for example, the social implications of the fact that men's fashion—though no less capable of artistry and indeed frivolity—is generally characterised by a certain utility that women's fashion is not. We cannot ignore the ways in which fashion interprets and promulgates particular ideas about the feminine ideal, and feminine virtues. Let's not pretend, for example, that clothes that liken women to cupcakes, or porcelain dolls, are not appealing to specific gender roles, do not evoke the image of the woman on a pedestal: delicate, idle, mute. Indeed, for the elaborately styled hipster queen, you can look, but you better not touch, because God knows she might tip over.

But the point is that fashion is not the point. The point is that women are not merely interesting as deep as their clothes, or skin, and yet our culture seems determined to treat us as merely aesthetic creatures—or better said, objects.

I'm talking about a culture where it is quite normal for a stranger on the street to criticise my personal appearance—loudly and unapologetically—even while attempting to solicit my sexual attention. I'm talking about a culture where it is not uncommon for a woman to be accused of "inviting" sexual assault by the way she is dressed; when appearance is all, it is more important that her clothes say "yes" than

that she says "no."

This emphasis on women's aesthetic is flagrant in the Icelandic media, where "calibre" and "ideas" are generally understood to be irrelevant to stories about the 'other' sex. Fréttablaðið and Morgunblaðið, especially, read sort of like the curriculum at Álftranesskóli: Women are mentioned in the context of gossip and fashion; as content, they are used mainly as fluff. 'Look at this cute actress talking about something!' 'Look at this one! She runs a clothing store all by her widdy biddy self!'

Can you hear me down here Nina? I'm drowning in the patriarchy.

Back to London, 1977. "Well, love songs," Nina says, "are never ending. Sometimes I listen to the radio and I say 'They're still at it!' No matter what the language, they're still at it. They want it, and when they get it they run from it. Then they say, well we want a natural woman. Then they get one... scares them half to death! Then they say well, you know, we like them slim with no tits, lily white with long blonde hair. And then you talk to them and they've got the same problem as you. Come on girls, come on."

If the Icelandic media is any indication of the state of affairs in this country, The Man is indeed drunk and presumptuous. He would have us believe that success is as good as a pat on the back for being pretty, that our empowerment lies in our ability to excite men sexually, and that Ásdís Rán is our (ice) queen. But we need not concede defeat and walk away. The heel is in our hands, we just have to be ready to use it. ♪

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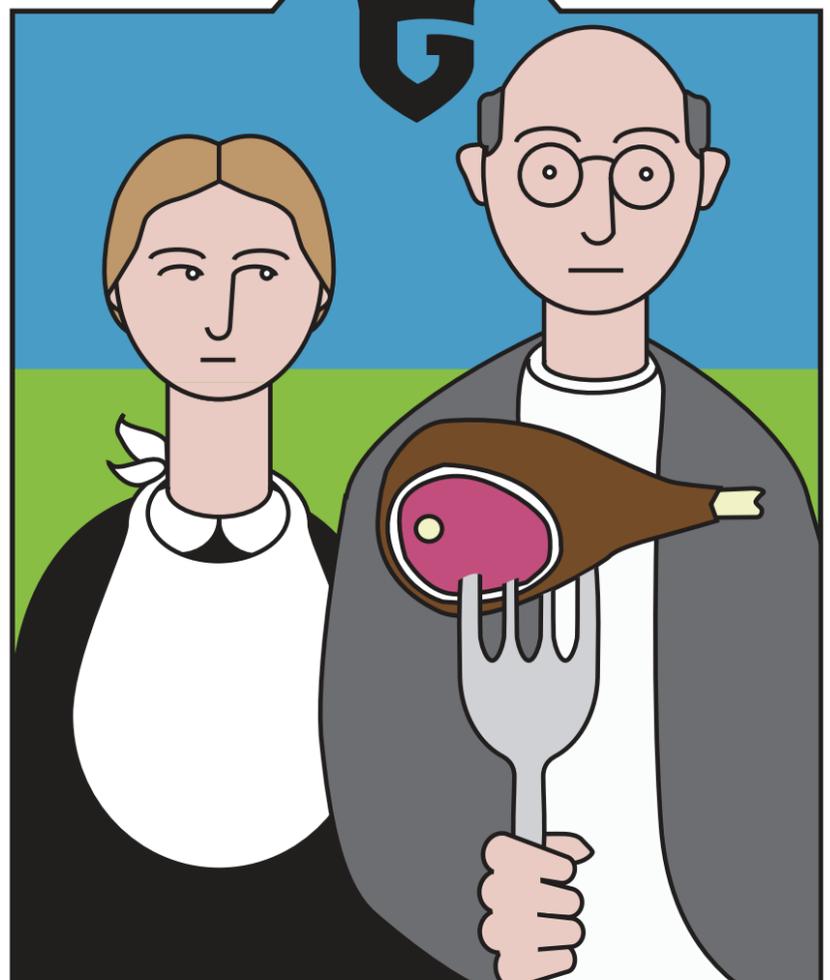
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The group exhibition features more than fifteen artists concerned with book arts, books as art. Noticeably missing from this exhibition are forays into visual poetry, but perhaps this will make for an exciting sequel in a future NYLO exhibition. (Call me, NYLO, if you're looking for a co-curator). 'Literacy' at The Living Art Museum (Skúlagata 28, Reykjavík) runs from June 17 to September 11, 2011 and the gallery is open 12–17, Tuesday through Sunday.

Do You Read Me?

Everyday, we face a constant interaction with our internal and external environments that requires of us one hyperawesome skill: LITERACY. With this superpower, we can interpret symbols flying at us in the form of e-mails (hello, alphabet!), cloud formations (those puffy Simpsons clouds, also known as cumulus, signal fair weather), smile from a stranger (so far this article provides mild pleasure or entertainment), and most everything else that presents itself as nameable, knowable, readable, interpretable.



One popular technology that supports our literacy addictions focuses on the representation of languages through a tangible, consumable machine: THE BOOK. We know them, love them, read them, write them, use them to prop up foosball tables. But in our speed to read, how much time have we spent investigating this inherited technology and its learned, assumed rules of engagement?

WHAT A BOOK SHOULD LOOK LIKE
Nýlistasafnið's new exhibition—LITERACY—covers a wide range of concerns within book-art culture, foregrounding the visual and mechanical materiality of the book as an object. Curated by Jón B. K. Ransu, the exhibition features eighteen mainly Iceland-based creators who interrogate typesetting, bookbinding, creative composition, and critical interpretation. The most successful works in this exhibition encourage readers to break away from many languages' con-

ventional reading tactics (start to finish, left-to-right, top-to-bottom) so readers may enter texts where we like, engage with books as constructed technology, and ultimately consider text within the environment in which it exists.

The exhibition's statement notes that "the gallery houses the largest collection of artists' books in Iceland." In a country steeped with literary history and boasting a 99% literacy rate according to Aunt Wikipedia, it feels appropriate that 20th and 21st-century writers and art-makers here would explore the book as object and its many possibilities for interrogating our assumed and learned navigation of print culture.

Dieter Roth's and Niels Hafstein's bookworks are displayed in large glass-encased tables, where we find square books designed in multiples. Dieter Roth's contrasting colours of orange/blue or the typographic standard black/white showcase typesetting layout for-

mation to mirror text blocks in conventional and unconventional geometric shapes. The use of die-cut technique to layer paper provides depth to the two-dimensional fields. Niels Hafstein's twenty books are constrained to identical size but feature different geometric cover designs, underlining the same-same-but-different limitation placed on the publishing industry with its rigid design requirements (or, to speak plainly, dictating what a book should look like and how it should behave).

Set within a wide recent history of mostly 20th century and mostly Icelandic book arts, it was the 2011 works by Gunnðís Ýr Finnbogadóttir and Ragnhildur Jóhannsdóttir that resonated most with this reader. Ragnhildur Jóhannsdóttir's sculptural poetry serves as a fine addition to the cutting-edge realm of erasure poetry and book sculpture, recalling the work of US-based artist Brian Dettmer and UK-based Tom Phillips' 'A Humument'. Ragnhildur takes books as 'found objects' and then applies a cut-up vivisection to bring into relief texts within

"There I was as a body, standing in the gallery listening to a voice while handling this odd object. This shift in normative gallery behaviour brought me rocketing into a hyperaware literate reinterpretation"

BE LIBERAL

Jan Voss' 'D-Tour' plays on the metaphor of a book as a journey, with the reader/narrator/main character sketched on the book's spine. The spine itself is comprised of many pages or signatures across which the image is sketched. On one cover is an expansive landscape, while the other cover displays a human-made road. Read into this liberally.

Friðrik Þór Friðriksson's 'Brennu Njáls Saga' is the exhibit's only video inclusion. It features the pages of a book (one assumes it is 'Njáls Saga') flipped rapidly by two hands, paired with an intense audio track of warps, beats, wails, and speech that push audience through the too-quick-to-read narrative—a glimpse into a possible reader's experience as she devours the saga. The book burns at the end. Read into this liberally, too.

As perhaps the only foreign work on display in the collection, Douwe Jan Bakker's 'Pronounceables' bridges the space between visual and aural through a series of instruments that are to be inserted into the mouth. This art works to make tangible what is uttered.

RESONATED MOSTLY

The most curious inclusion strays from paper. A coarsely sewn-shut animal organ, seemingly ancient and stuck with a cryptic note inscribed to or about N. Hawthorne, nods to the many ways in which books are described in English using anatomical terms (spine, body of text, header, footer, etc.). This piece alone is well worth ample contemplation time and a jaunt to NÝLÓ. The animal matter is also useful in relief to the mausoleum of tree corpses on display in the gallery (or on any bookshelf in your home), a reminder of the deaths that sustain literary culture.

larger texts. Her poems stick flayed from each spread-open cover's frame, creating book-as-organism that fans its small paper arms. These works meet viewers on two levels—foregrounding the book-object's physicality, and also inviting a closer, more intimate inspection of the printed words.

ALPHABET DANCE

The most memorable part of the exhibition occurred as a "happening," where board member and gallery sitter Gunnhildur Hauksdóttir approached me with a robust though squishy blue orb and then read aloud two paragraphs. This bit of ingenuity is excerpted from Gunnðís Ýr Finnbogadóttir's 'The works I should have made, titled If I would be successful and I'd been born before her, at a different place.' As I squeezed and weighed the orb in my hands, Gunnhildur read for me about an imagined performance created from an "alphabet of movement," in which a personal alphabet is choreographed on the bodies of dancers, tying together a notion of the poem as a dance (or vice versa).

This work conjured the tactile reality of the book in hand with the intimacy involved in the literary performance (also known as The Reading). There I was as a body, standing in the gallery listening to a voice while handling this odd object. This shift in normative gallery behaviour brought me rocketing into a hyperaware literate reinterpretation, where I related this weird performance to my own quiet book-reading experiences (holding an object, another's voice in my head). The corporeality—our very real bodies engaged in these constant literate acts—was a welcome finish to this tour of The Living Art Museum. ☘

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The hills are alive with the sound of music in Gøta, the small town in the Faroe Islands, which is the setting for the Faroe's annual and legendary G! Festival.

Here I am, somewhere around half way in between Scotland and Iceland, watching people mow their turfed rooftops in preparation for a festival that three days before its beginning looks like it might not happen. The Faroese are so relaxed that it often occurs to one that their watches are rather meant for ornamentation than use.

So, I wait and watch. For fun, I try and get away with being a local by speaking Icelandic with a Danish accent and hope that people don't ask me too many questions. A good tip for learning any language is to get drunk. A good tip for a festival whose main stage is on a tiny beach (which I am told is actually big this year) is to not get too drunk, in case you decide that you are enjoying or hating the music so much that you would like to hear it underwater. Don't, it's freezing.

The three stages each have their own charm. The D.J. stage is set in a ruined building on a hill coming up from the sea. Graffitied on the outer wall, the name of the venue 'Ground

Zero' is cheekily displayed when you enter the town, as a pair of knickers and a vest hang on a washing line inside. The smaller stage, called 'The Playground,' does what it says on the tin, a built stage on the playground's astro-turf football pitch, which generates a charming oxymoron, with children playing on a see-saw whilst anything from folk to metal bands perform on stage. After being told that the main stage on the beach nearly sank into the sea last year, I watch in disbelief as it is put up. This is G! A fizzy pop drink of fantasy that has a distinctly homemade feeling.

THURSDAY: Guðrun & Bartal, Andy Irvine, Annamarie Zimakoff, Spælimentinir, Lisa í Dali, Mirror Men, Sic, Movitis!, Hamferð, Mugison, Fallulah, Dr. Mrgillis, HumanWoman, ÜberNörd.

Lisa í Dali: has a lovely voice but demonstrates the problem with singer songwriters writing in a second language, or perhaps singer songwriters in general. Her lyrics were trite with simple rhymes

and one song that consisted mainly of the words "fuck the rest." Now, I'm not going to get all Mary Whitehouse on you, but continuous and gratuitous swearing does not a good lyricist make; in fact it's just a bit dull. In better moments, her song "I was made by lovers" was in the tradition of Faroese a cappella singing, full of depth, disharmony and strangeness.

Mugison: Not at his best, but always fun. His voice has chocolaty smoothness, rounded off by a smoker's roughness. A bit disorganised at times (he arrived on stage without a guitar strap) however, despite technical problems, his energy was high and he got the crowd Mugie-boogying along with him. *Fallulah:* was on top form, which meant there was a good party to be had. She wooed the crowd with catchy tunes and a rock-pop sensibility. Leaping about the stage with tambourine in hand, the performance had the crowd transfixed into a permanent mode of carefree happiness.

Dr. Mrgillis: Unfortunately I was a bit too drunk to make any proper or reliable commentary on this act, but I had a good time.

FRIDAY: Rod Sinclair, Katrina Petersen, Marius, Marstin & The Revelators, Nive Nielsen, Gypsy Train, Petur Pólson, Amnesty Vinnari, Budam, Travis, Hogni, Me-suggah, Picture Book, Swagnah Dangah, Herr Gott.

Nive Nielsen: Rarely have I seen such a strange attitude from a young, touring band. Yes, there were some technical problems; well there was an annoying buzzing sound coming from the ukulele lead. However, trying to "sort it out" for half an hour of a forty-five minute set, well, it wouldn't get you asked back to any venue I've been to. When they finally got to it, I was not only disappointed with the boring, clean pop—they were a shambles, to say the least. The singer was nervous, the band kept looking in despair at the soundman and I almost walked away until they played their last song. 'Vacuum Cleaner' which involved

Words

Álfrún Gísladóttir

Photography

Tróndur Dalsgarð



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FUN IN THE FAROESE

The Grapevine visits the G! Festival

a saw and a violin bow. Always a sucker for strange noises, and I thought it was a shame at that point that they hadn't just got on with it in the first place.

Gipsy Train: Despite the considerable effort to be cool, with the backing singers smoking on stage and a bottle of wine being passed about, these boys pulled off their 'cool' mostly because of their sheer joy at playing together, what could have looked embarrassing but was just lovely. Young, handsome and topless, strutting about the stage, the lead singer couldn't go wrong. A lanky, longhaired boy pointing his walking stick poignantly into the crowd, imitating a permanently drunk fisherman who tells stories to everyone who walks by, added a comedic element. The brass section created a much-needed musical effect. The stand out act in this band, however, was the one who wasn't in it. The singer's sister, Lív Næs, who was, to invoke Borat, 'very nice,' joined them on stage with a guitar. Amidst the chaotic set, she held the audience captivated, and not only because they had

to look twice to check she wasn't Eivör. Taking inspiration from the trembling vocal sound of the traditional Faroese a cappella, her voice has the quiet power of a soul singer. She might have stolen the show if the band hadn't been so fun to party with.

Petur Póison: Rock that hits the spot. Lyrical melodies and the ability to take you up and bring you down in the same stroke. It's hard to believe that a small rotund man in a chequered shirt can generate this much power. The two drummers, facing each other, are not only a good gimmick but add a sense of drive to the music. The final number 'I Sail Home' is an emotive song with a harrowing harmony, which sounds like a conversation between a daughter looking across the horizon for a father lost at sea.

Budam: You have to see him to believe it. Simply, magical. The highlight was the story that he told about the local Faroese preacher from Skarvaness called Moses, who asked his followers to go to Israel. "They said, but Moses,

there's a big fuck off ocean between the Faroe Islands and Israel. Now this Moses wasn't THE Moses, but he came up with an even better solution... a bicycle ship." Cue a funny, ethereal, sexual tune that invited a chorus of hypnotised festivalgoers to join in.

Travis: For a band I don't like, they were okay. 'Why Does it Always Rain on Me?' became the most appropriate song of the day as it poured down consistently. A great headlining act for a population that enjoys sing-alongs, and we turned, turned, turned and sang, sang, sang the night out.

SATURDAY: *Laksagrling, Astrid Samuelsen, Lív & the Zoo, The Shallow Man, Cody, Benjamin, Skálmöld, Orka, Guðrið Hansdóttir, Blind Boys of Alabama, The Tennessee Mafia Jug Band, Týr, Sugar Daddy & Honey Pie, Hellzapoppin, Lorne Ashley, Páll Finnur Páll, Brynjólfur, Hallur Joensen, Sexy Lazer.*

Skálmöld: Viking Metal has always struck me as a bit cringing, but the band was a steady force to be reckoned

with. With a tight set, they delivered a solid performance.

Orka: An oil drum duck-taped onto a chair was just one of the many home made instruments that produced a strange disharmony with the vocals. Creating a heavy, percussive, multi-layered sound, the band plunges itself into your body and takes over.

Blind Boys of Alabama: The beach flooded, and those blind boys led us onto the ark. This legendary gospel quintet absolutely stole the show. They may be old but their soulful harmonies and quivering command turned even the most devout atheists into believers, if only for an hour. The crowd lapped it up, and even if the stage had sunk, the crowd would have swum towards that sweet sweet sound.

The Tennessee Mafia Jug Band: Real life hillbillies from Nashville, Tennessee. And yes, there is a jug. Funny, melancholic and slightly ridiculous, the fellas brought warmth to a chilly night. Unfortunately and surprisingly to my innocent ears, there was a so-called 'coon

song', referring to popular, racist songs that supported segregation in early twentieth century America. The song "Driving out the coons" unsurprisingly drove out some of the crowd. I'm sure the ones who stayed thought they were singing about raccoons, but the noticeable chill in the audience at that point had little to do with the weather.

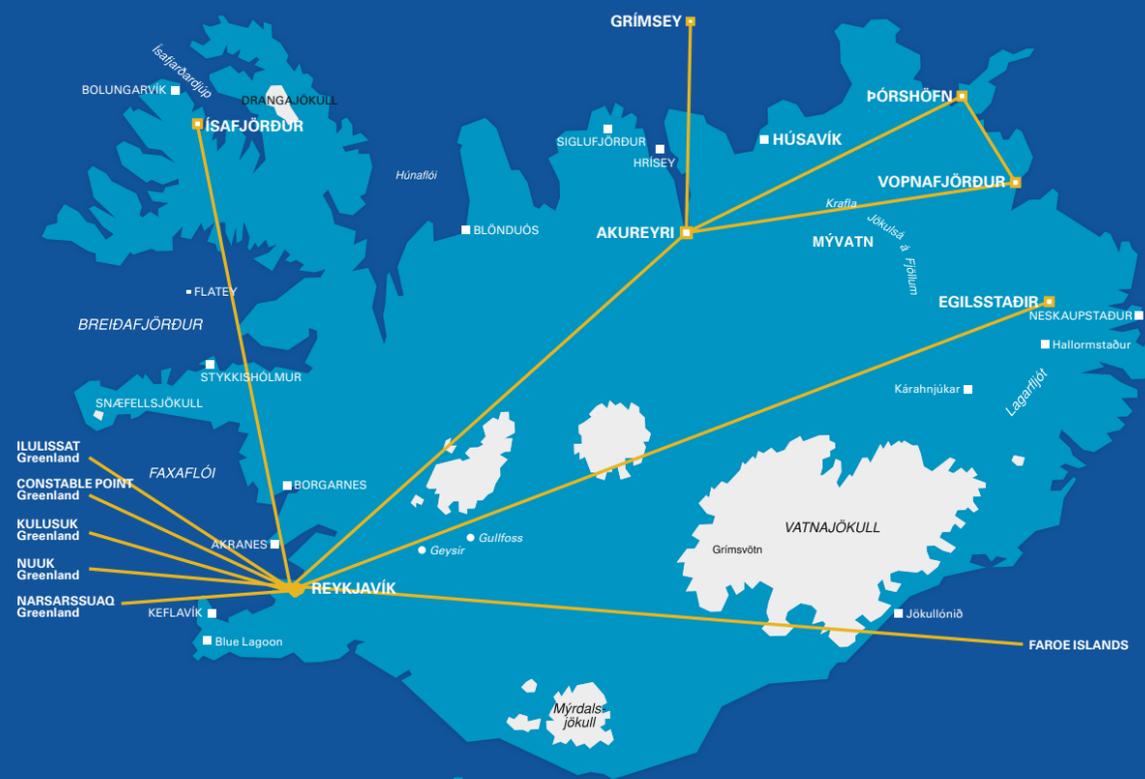
"Well, I'm sick, sober and sorry, but look at the fun that we've had."

Hellzapoppin: Closing the festival with a man balancing a child on a chair on his mouth, a fire eater, a wolf-man and a girl who catches darts with her bottom was so wrong it was right.

The G! Festival is a unique and uplifting experience, however much it rains. There were a few standout acts, but what never failed was the incredible elation of the crowds, only matched in scale by Gøta's breathtaking landscape. 🍷

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WHALING IN ICELAND

Historically Uncool



Iceland is often considered an environmentally forward thinking country due to its investments in clean renewable energy. However, the same country is still somehow entrenched in the backward, economically unsound and diplomatically poisonous policies of 20th century whaling. Exactly why is Iceland so determined to slaughter whales?

TRADITION

Open boat spear-drift whaling did not define Iceland as a modern nation. In fact, from the late 1800s to the middle of the 20th century, whaling in and around Iceland was entirely dominated by foreign companies (mostly Norwegian) seeking profits from whale oil. Of course, as market prices fluctuated and whale stocks collapsed, these companies failed or moved on (Tonnessen & Johnsen, 1982).

The intensity of exploitation was clearly unsustainable and prompted Alþingi to establish the world's first national ban on whaling in 1915 (Ellis, 1999).

COMPLICITY

Unfortunately, the 1948 rise of Hvalur HF would prove Iceland to be just as complicit in the decimation of cetaceans as any other whaling country. Powered steel ships with explosive-tipped canon-fired harpoons had dramatically increased the killing capacity of whalers.

The now infamous International Whaling Commission first convened in 1949 with Iceland as a member. Just five years later, Icelanders were already breaking the rules.

In 1954, the IWC officially prohibited blue whale catches in the North Atlantic and Iceland continued to kill them until 1960 (NMFS, 1998). Today, the blue whale remains an endangered species due to commercial whaling.

OPPOSITION

By the 1970s, most of the large whale species had been decimated. Increasingly strict regulations were casually subverted and activists were emboldened to take matters into their own hands.

Iceland was killing undersized fin and sei whales (both endangered) and activists responded with daring interference. In 1979, Greenpeace volunteers became human shields in inflatable boats by steering between the whaling ships and the whales. Icelandic gunners fired any-

way sending harpoons just over the activists, and the local Coast Guard seized the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior (Day, 1992).

In 1986, members of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society took a much more direct approach by vandalizing a whaling shore station and sinking two unmanned Hvalur ships overnight in Reykjavík harbour.

RESEARCH

The IWC eventually took stronger steps to prevent the world's remaining industries from systematically wiping out all whales. After years of unsuccessful attempts, the commission enacted a moratorium on all commercial whaling to begin in the 1985-86 season (following a 1972 UNEP decision).

Although Iceland voted against the moratorium, Alþingi later agreed to accept it. Japan had other plans and continued whaling under a loophole intended for scientific research. Iceland soon followed with 'research' of its own.

In 1985, Iceland's proposed catch was mostly minke whales and endangered fin and sei whales with a limited experimental quota for endangered blue and humpback whales. The cost of the government-subsidised research would be recovered through the export and sale of whale meat to Japan. However, the public campaign to promote domestic whale meat consumption largely failed leaving most local supplies to spoil or end up as animal feed (Ellis, 1999).

The USA threatened economic sanctions and Greenpeace intercepted shipments of whale meat in European ports. Consumer boycotts of Icelandic fish resulted in the loss of millions of dollars in cancelled contracts. This combined pressure led Iceland to stop whaling in 1989 and quit the IWC in 1992.

SUBVERSION

In 2002, determined to revive the industry, Iceland made a third attempt to re-join the commission with an objection to the moratorium. At a special meeting, with assistance from the IWC chairman, Iceland's observers were permitted to take part in the vote. In a divided decision, Iceland effectively voted itself back into the commission while nearly half of the IWC objected to the procedure (IWC, 2009).

During the attempt, it was declared that commercial whaling would not resume until 2006. Therefore, fourteen years after whaling ceased due to international pressure, government subsidised 'research' whaling began anew in 2003. Iceland's Marine Research Institute (MRI) claimed that minke whales were eating too many fish.

Formal protests were issued by Britain and over twenty other nations. Iceland's own tourism industry warned of the potential backlash. Regardless, in 2006 endangered fin whales were once again hunted by Hvalur HF. Meat exports to Japan resumed in 2008. The following year, Iceland's outgoing Fisheries Minister increased whaling quotas to allow taking up to 150 fin whales and 100 minke whales annually according to MRI's "scientific recommendations."

CONTRADICTION

In summary, whaling seemingly continues in opposition to the interests of Iceland. On-going regulatory violations are a stark contrast to national environmental values. With such historically negative policies and limited economic potential it's reasonable to doubt whether Icelanders have ever questioned the viability and ethics of whaling as their government supports and facilitates the industry.

Words

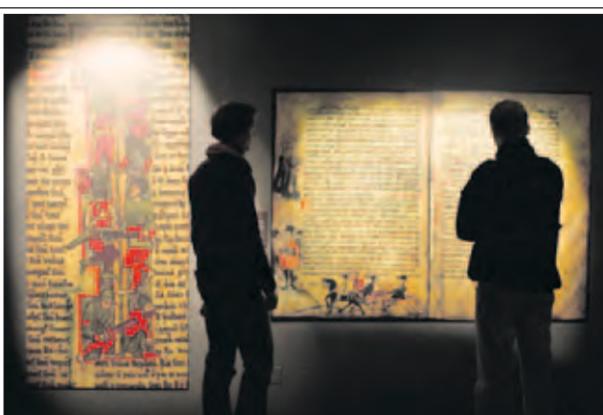
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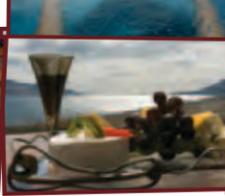


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The Scandinavian Club

No Icelanders allowed?



There's really no question that Denmark, Norway, and Sweden are Scandinavian countries. But when it comes to Iceland, Finland, and the Faeroe Islands, it's apparently not so cookie-cutter-simple. While Icelanders generally feel Scandinavian, many "Scandinavians" insist on denying Iceland the honour.

DEFINITION

Now if you're thinking, 'okej, let's settle this barney with a dictionary,' think again. The ever-so authoritative free online Merriam-Webster dictionary says:

Scan-di-na-via geographical name
\skan-də-'nā-vē-ə, -vyə/
1 peninsula N Europe occupied by Norway & Sweden
2 Denmark, Norway, Sweden – sometimes also considered to include Iceland, the Faeroe Islands, & Finland

Já, I know. A free online dictionary is perhaps not so authoritative. But consulting Oxford, in print, is no better:

Scan-di-navia / skænd'neivə /
noun [U] a cultural region in NW Europe consisting of Norway, Sweden and Denmark and sometimes also Iceland, Finland and the Faeroe Islands.

That's just frábært, right? Tack for nothing, Merriam-Webster and Oxford. To be fair, regardless of whether a dictionary authority had provided a definitive answer, the debate would probably still continue.

GEOGRAPHY

Lately I have been at total loggerheads with a Swede who is adamant that Scandinavia refers to only Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. "People travel a lot between the three countries, and not nearly as often to Iceland or the Faeroes," he reasons. "Lots of young Swedes go to work in Norway, Norwegians come to Sweden to buy alcohol, and Danes visit Malmö, et cetera."

So in other words he is discriminating against Iceland for being a hassle to travel to, and perhaps for not having cheap liquor and exciting jobs for fresh Swed-

ish engineers. Behind this silly reasoning, he seems to be hinting at a geographical problem with Iceland being a three-hour flight away. Perhaps it's also problematic that Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) is the official flag carrier of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, and it doesn't even fly to Iceland.

Geographically speaking though, Scandinavia can be defined as the peninsula consisting of Norway and Sweden, as Webster says (also parts of Russia are in there, it turns out). And some old maps do in fact depict Scandinavia as an island (yes, they got that wrong) made up of modern day Norway and Sweden.

"Whatever. Let them have their Scandinavian language. The Icelanders and Faroese have more fun speaking to each other anyways"

But surely the definition cannot simply be geographical. If it were, Denmark wouldn't be part of Scandinavia and Finland would be because it's pretty much part of that peninsula/island. Not to mention, Swedes often go there to buy cheap, tax-free alcohol.

CULTURE

In addition to being a geographical term, Scandinavia can also be defined as a cultural term, as Oxford says. The Swede has plenty to say on this front too. "Even as a wee lad you just KNOW Sweden-Norway-Denmark is Scandinavia, nothing more, nothing less," he says. "We are the same people." But, this is a rather shaky way to exclude Iceland from the mix when the country was in fact settled by the Norwegian Ingólfur Arnarson, and was under Norwegian and then Danish rule until June 17, 1944.

Echoing my sentiment, an Icelander

tells me, "I have never understood this distinction some people make—Iceland was settled by Vikings originating mostly from Norway, subsequently with some mixing by people of Celtic origin." Then he ponders light heartedly, "Swedes, Danes and the Norwegians are tall and blond, while Icelanders tend to be less so, to the point that the Icelandic male was recently described disparagingly as being short, pudgy and mousy-haired." He wonders if this might be the distinction.

Common heritage and appearances aside, however, Scandinavians are also known to conduct themselves similarly. They are often characterised as Protes-

is not even in the Icelandic online subscription-based dictionary ordabok.is.

The basic idea is that people should not go on about being better than others, and admittedly this makes Iceland somewhat of a black sheep. But, perhaps our Scandinavian brethren should forgive us, as it may very well be that the nation suffers from an inferiority complex after all those years of being a neglected colony of Denmark. Thanks a lot, Danes!

LANGUAGE

Then there's the so-called Scandinavian language bond due to the fact that the trio—Denmark, Norway and Sweden—can essentially communicate with each other in their own, mutually understandable tongues.

But this is silly! As Icelanders often boast (remember, they don't subscribe to Jante Law), the Icelandic language is so pure that they can still read the Old Sagas. In actuality, Iceland is more authentically Scandinavian in this sense because Icelandic is most similar to the language once spoken throughout all of the Scandinavian countries.

Whatever. Let them have their Scandinavian language. The Icelanders and Faroese have more fun speaking to each other anyways, what with the number of similar words with totally different meanings. For instance, an Icelander in the Faeroe Islands is likely to run into signs that say, "Bert Starfsfólk", which means "Staff Only" in Faroese, but 'Naked Staff' in Icelandic. Now tell me that's not more fun.

THE VERDICT

Rather inconclusive. For one reason or the other, Scandinavia is made up of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, and sometimes Finland, Iceland and the Faeroe Islands. It just depends on whom you ask. 🍷

Words

Anna Andersen

Photo

Johannes Jansson / norden.org

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ICELANDIC DESIGN



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PAGE 22

“My telephone was filled with threats. But people didn't believe this when I told them. They had this attitude that this was such a good, nice society. I was silenced, totally. The only solution for me was to move away.”

Iceland's first openly gay man Hörður Torfason speaks about the challenges of coming out and about his life long battle against injustices

PAGE 18

“There's a rumour going around that the so-called 'Icelandic' tomato is possible its own cross-breed: one avid gardener told me that in the early days the seeds got all mixed up, so we're really not quite sure what variety an 'Icelandic' tomato is.”

Marc Vincenz uncovers the shocking truth about Icelandic produce.

PAGE 14

“The Icelandic police was at its wits end. A medium was even brought in to find the body of Geirfinnur. Finally, the Icelandic government recruited a German policeman to wrap up the case. His name was Karl Schütz. Security matters were his speciality, rather than criminal investigations...”

Iceland's most famous criminal Sævar Ciesielski has passed away. He was convicted of murdering two men whose bodies were never found. Many believe he was the victim of a great travesty of justice.

PAGE 30

“The pacing of the film matches the stamina of the audience – which is to say, the spirit of the festival – and immediately the air takes on the jovial, furry feel of life in the wake of one's first beer.”

Reporting from LungA artist's festival!

PAGE 32

“Today the sun is shining, people are smiling and the birds are singing. But sod that, because the doom-meister from Dalvík is back!”

Music critic extraordinaire Bob Cluness is pleased with Dathi's new album.

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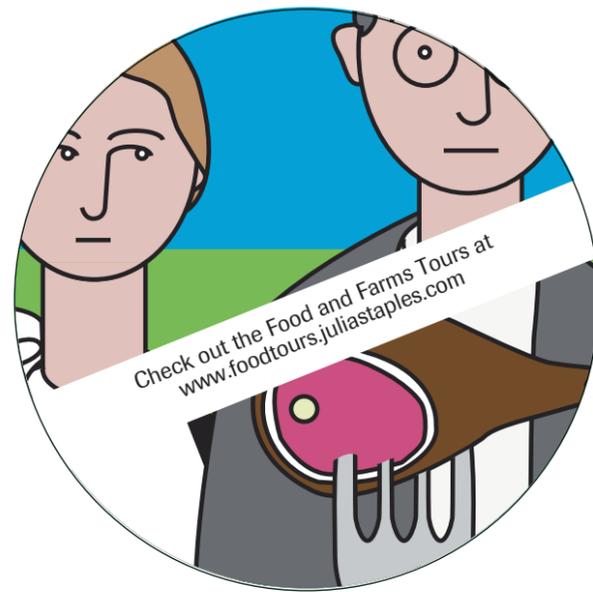
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Issue 11 - 2011

www.grapevine.is

Stylized Erotica At Its Finest

Robert Mapplethorpe at i8 gallery

The iconic photography and legacy of Robert Mapplethorpe lives on at the i8 Gallery. His work, which focuses mainly on the alluring New York art scene of the 70s and 80s, blurred the lines between class and vulgar. His experimentation with mostly black-and-white portraits and Polaroids transcended established genres and became something more abstract than simply provocative content. He challenged classic aesthetic beauty through his portrayal of male and female nudity, powers, and celebrities in an erotic yet stylized manner. In addition, he brought concepts of gender roles and sexuality into a new light by portraying thematic material through still media. After his death in 1989 from AIDS, his work continues to gain world recognition and admiration. The exhibit at i8 runs until September 10. i8 Gallery, Tryggvagata 16, 101 Reykjavík // Opening Reception July 28, 5:00-7:00 to September 10 // Free entrance

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MUSIC

CONCERTS & NIGHTLIFE IN JULY & AUGUST

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

29 FRI

Austur
22:00 DJ Danni Deluxe

B5
00:00 DJ Simma

Bar 11
22:00 DJ Ómar

Barbara
23:00 DJ Lingerine

Café Oliver
22:00 Local DJ
23:00 Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, 3 for 1
cocktails for ladies

Celtic Cross
01:00 Local DJ

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live Music

Dillon
18:00 Thule Rock Festival - Blæti, Ad
Dodge City, Dark Harvest, XIII &
Vicky

Dubliner
00:30 Live Music

English Pub
21:30 Live Music

Esja
00:00 DJ Hlynur Mastermix

Gallery Bar 46
18:00 Pub Quiz

Hvíta Perlan
00:00 DJ Solid

Iðnó
20:00 Innipúkinn Festival

Kaffibarinn
00:00 Alfons X & HalliValli

Kaffi Zimsen
00:00 Local DJ

Kaldalón, Harpa
17:00 Pearls of Icelandic song, 3000
ISK

Thorvaldsen
00:00 Local DJ

Trúnó
22:30 DJ Early

Vegamót
22:00 DJ Jónas



A Drag Day's Night

August 3, 21:00
Harpa - Silfurberg Hall
2800 ISK

Have you ever dreamt of travelling in
a lavender bus called Priscilla? Do you
work as a lumberjack by day, but feel
like wearing high heels, suspenders
and bra by night? Whether or not you
answer affirmative to these questions, I
can assure you that the 'Icelandic Drag
Competition' will be a damn awesome
show.

Since its debut fourteen years ago,
the drag competition has been an icon
of Icelandic queer culture. Far more
than men wearing women's clothes
and gals disguised as macho guys, the
two-hour theatrical show will be full
of laughs and fun. And this year it will
be held in the brand-new Harpa. Don't
miss out as competitors vie for their
spot as King and Queen of the Icelandic
Drag Competition 2011!

30 SAT

Austur
22:00 DJ Jónas

B5
00:00 DJ Leifur

Bakkus
00:00 DJ KGB

Bar 11
22:00 DJ Biggi

Barbara
23:30 DJ Glimmer

Café Haiti
21:00 Jussanam - Brazilian Jazz
Sessions

Café Oliver
22:00 Local DJ
23:00 Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, 3 for 1
cocktails for ladies

Café Rosenberg
22:00 KK & Maggi Eiriks

Celtic Cross
22:00 Local DJ

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live Music

Dillon
18:00 Thule Rock Festival - Two Tickets
Japan, Morning after youth, Nögl,
Manslaughter, Momentum &
Vintage

Dubliner
00:30 Live Music

English Pub
21:00 Live Music

Esja
22:00 DJ Hlynur Mastermix

Faktory
00:00 PartyZone - Már & Nielsen

Gallery Bar 46
22:00 Live Music

Hallgrímskirkja
12:00 Christoph Schoener, 1500 ISK

Hvíta Perlan
00:00 DJ Solid

Iðnó
20:00 Innipúkinn Festival

Kaffibarinn
00:00 DJ KGB

Kaffi Zimsen
00:00 Local DJ

Kaldalón, Harpa
17:00 Voces Mascarorum - Icelandic a
capella, 3000 ISK



If Rock Makes Your Heart Sing!

July 29, 16:00 - July 31, 22:30

Dillon

1000 ISK per day or 2500 ISK for the whole weekend plus cheap beer

Some people may say that rock is dead, but we say it lives on at Dillon! They will
be hosting their version of the Verslunarmannahelgi festivities with an off the chain
rock fest lasting all weekend (just to make sure you get enough). They will be
featuring 23 artists including acoustic folk singer Lay Low, gnarly punk crew Q4U,
classic rock'n'rollers Vintage Caravan, and every other version of rock under the
sun. This gritty gathering only happens once a year, so don't miss your chance to
bust out your pleather chaps and studded belts!





Reykjavik's Innipúkinn Festival

All of the debauchery, but none of the soggy tents!

July 29 to 31

Iðnó

4500 ISK (three-day pass) / 2900 ISK (single day)

The last weekend of July is Iceland's Verslunarmannahelgin, or "Labour Day Weekend." Traditionally this means that Icelanders make haste out of town to spend the long weekend relaxing in the countryside or alternatively partying at one of the numerous musical festivals taking place around the country.

But for those who prefer the comfort of their own bed to the discomfort of a wet tent, Reykjavik's Innipúkinn Music Festival is the perfect option. It's the chance to enjoy three nights of debauchery and amazing concerts without having to go further than downtown! Since it was conceived in 2002, the festival has featured such leading Icelandic performers as FM Belfast, Mugison and Ólöf Arnalds, to name a few. In its tenth year now, the festival once again has an awesome line-up including favourites Agent Fresco, Apparat Organ Quartet, Snorri Helgason, and Valdimar.

Aight homebodies, we'll see y'all there! As for the rest of you more adventurous types, don't forget your rain by because it's forecasted to be wet. Oh, and be safe, use condoms, and don't rape people.

Sódoma

22:30 Atrum & Darknote, 1000 ISK

Thorvaldsen

00:00 Local DJ

Trúnó

22:30 DJ Blue Screen

Vegamót

22:00 DJ Símon

31 SUN

Bakkus

00:00 DJ Árni Sveins

Bar 11

22:00 DJ Óli Dóri

Barbara

21:00 Movie night - Screening of Sleepaway Camp

Café Oliver

22:00 Salsa Night

Den Danske Kro

22:00 Live Music

Dillon

18:00 Thule Rock Festival - Pascal Pinon, Mikado Aggi & Nevolution

Dubliner

21:00 Live Music

English Pub

22:00 Live Music

Gallery Bar 46

22:00 Live Music

Hallgrímskirkja

17:00 Christoph Schoener, 2500 ISK

Iðnó

20:00 Innipúkinn Festival

Kaffibarinn

22:00 Frimann Andrússon & DJ CasaNova

Trúnó

Cozy day after hang out

Vegamót

22:00 DJ Danni Delux

1 MON

Bakkus

21:00 Bakkus Movie Night

Barbara

21:00 Screening of *The Real L Word* season 2. Free entry and free popcorn.

Café Oliver

22:00 Margarita Night

Den Danske Kro

22:00 Live Music

Dubliner

21:00 Live Music

English Pub

22:00 Live Music

2 TUE

Café Oliver

22:00 Live Karaoke

Den Danske Kro

22:00 Live Music

Dubliner

21:00 Live Music

English Pub

21:30 Live Music

Kaldalón, Harpa

17:00 Örn Arnarson & Sólvéig Samúelsdóttir, 3000 ISK

Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum

20:30 Trio Blik - Songs from the Westman Islands, 2000 ISK

3 WED

Bakkus

20:30 Pub Quiz!, 500 ISK

Café Oliver

22:00 Live Music

Celtic Cross

22:00 Open Mic

Den Danske Kro

22:00 Live Music

Dubliner

21:00 Live Music

English Pub

21:30 Live Music

Hallgrímskirkja

12:00 Schola cantorum, 1500 ISK

Kaldalón, Harpa

17:00 Women in Icelandic music, 3000 ISK

Silfurberg, Harpa

21:00 Icelandic Drag Competition 2011, 2800 ISK

4 THU

B5

00:00 Local DJ

Bakkus

22:00 Einar Sonic

Bar 11

21:00 Live Music, followed by DJ Óli

Dóri

Café Oliver

22:00 Ingó Verðurguð

Celtic Cross

22:00 Local DJ

Den Danske Kro

22:00 Live Music

Dubliner

20:00 Irish Session

English Pub

21:30 Live Music

Esja

22:00 Steini's Sax trio - Jazzy/Funky night

Faktóry

21:00 Snorri Helgason, 1490 ISK

Hallgrímskirkja

12:00 Lenka Matéová & Auður Guðjohnsen, 1500 ISK

Háskólabíó Movie Theater

20:00 Gay Pride Opening Ceremony

Kaldalón, Harpa

17:00 Halldór Laxness - The music in his life and in his works, 3000 ISK

Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da

22:00 Live Music

Prikið

21:00 Drum & bass, jungle, dubstep & experimental beats

Thorvaldsen

22:00 Salsa Night, Mojito offer

Vegamót

22:00 DJ Hannes

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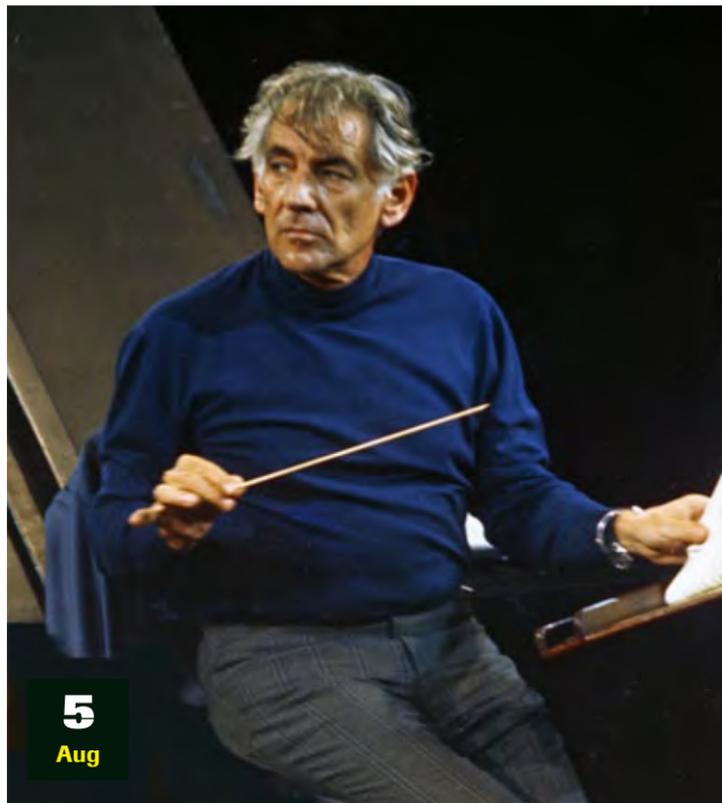
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MUSIC

CONCERTS & NIGHTLIFE IN JULY & AUGUST



The Classical Side Of The Gay Pride Fest

August 5, 20:00
Harpa - Northern Lights Auditorium
Free

Trivia question for you! What did Tchaikovsky, Saint-Saëns and Bernstein all have in common? Yep, they all were really great composers and had a special ability of transforming beauty into music. And... did you guess? Yep, they were all gay geniuses as well.

Though the best symphonic orchestras all over the world routinely play their works year in and year out, eleven Icelandic musicians will play a selection from these famous gay composers on August 5 at the Harpa Concert Hall. So go enjoy some of the most beautiful music ever created by mankind and take advantage of the opportunity to experience it all for free!

5 FRI

Austur
22:00 Local DJ

B5
00:00 Local DJ

Barbara
22:00 Boys, boys, boys and DJ Dramatik

Bakkus
00:00 DJ Unnur Andrea

Bar 11
21:00 Rockabillynight

Barbara
23:00 Boys' Dance, 1500 ISK

Café Oliver
22:00 Local DJ
23:00 Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, 3 for 1 cocktails for ladies

Celtic Cross
01:00 Local DJ

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live Music

Dublíner
00:30 Live Music

English Pub
21:30 Live Music

Esja
00:00 DJ Bogi

Faktóry
22:00 Svínarí #5 free concert series! - Friðrik Dór, Jón Jónsson & Úlfur Úlfur

Harpa - Northern Lights Hall
20:00 Classical Pride concert

Gallery Bar 46
18:00 Pub Quiz

Hvíta Perlan
00:00 Local DJ

Kaffibarinn
00:00 Local DJ

Kaffi Zimsen
00:00 Local DJ

Sódóma
22:00 Singapore Sling

Thorvaldsen
00:00 Local DJ

Trúnó
23:00 Mary Jet followed by DJ Glimmer

Vegamót
22:00 DJ Jónas

6 SAT

Amarhóll
15:30 Outdoor concert - Among the performers: Paul Oscar, Lay Low, The Esoteric Gender, Never the Bride, Gunni & Felix, MaryJet, Bloodgroup, & Hera Björk



Poe Inspired Heavy Metal? WTF

August 6, 22:30
Café Amsterdam
2500 ISK

To be honest I'm a bit skeptical about the idea of listening to the sublime poetry of 'The Raven' or the thrilling passages of 'The Black Cat' transformed into a mishmash of metal noise. But fans of heavy metal group Negative Plane claim to take inspiration from literary masters Edgar Allan Poe and H.P. Lovecraft.

Admittedly they can be as dark, sinister and terrifying as Lovecraft's Cthulhu, but at the same time they have been likened to epic band The Doors and the Italian progressive band Globin.

After receiving great critical acclaim for their first album 'Saecula Saeculorum,' which put them in the top of the black metal scene, Negative Plane has released its second album, entitled 'Stained Glass Revelations.' To strut their new stuff, the black metal outfit from Florida are touring Europe and will be making a stop in Reykjavík. So let's not be negative and give them a chance next August 6 at Café Amsterdam.

Hallgrímskirkja
12:00 Hörður Áskelsson, 1500 ISK

Hvíta Perlan
00:00 Local DJ

Kaffibarinn
00:00 Local DJ

Kaffi Zimsen
00:00 Local DJ

Kaldalón, Harpa
17:00 Pearls of Icelandic song, 3000 ISK

NASA
00:00 Gay Pride Ball - Páll Óskar, Sígga Beinteins, Daniel Oliver, Hera Björk & Haffi Haff, 2000 ISK

Sódóma
22:00 Beernight cheap beers and shots

Square
00:00 DJ Kolla - Girls' Dance, 1500 ISK

Thorvaldsen
00:00 Local DJ

Vegamót
22:00 Anna Rakel & DJ Hannes

7 SUN

Bakkus
22:00 Whiskey Guinness Specials Night

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Happy Hour every day from 16-20, beers and shots are for 500 ISK.</p> <p>Barbara
Every day in July from 20:00 - 00:00, Large draft for 400 and wine for 500 ISK.</p> <p>Barónspöbb
Beer is 500 ISK until 19.</p> <p>Bjarni Fel
Mojitos 750 ISK every weekend from 23:00.</p> <p>Boston
Happy Hour every day from 16-20, two for one on beer.</p> <p>Celtic Cross
Thursdays, lager for 500 ISK. Inquire about the malt beer punchcards.</p> | <p>Den Danske Kro
Happy Hour every day from 16-19, two for one. Shots for 500 ISK every Monday.</p> <p>Dillon
Happy Hour every day from 16-20, two for one.</p> <p>Dubliner
Happy Hour every day from 12-19, two for one Polar Beer and shot for 1000 ISK.</p> <p>Faktorý
Happy Hour every day from 17-20, large Egils Gull 500 ISK.</p> <p>Hotel 101 Bar
Happy Hour is daily from 17-19, all drinks are 50% off.</p> <p>Hótel Holt Gallery Bar
Happy Hour every day from 16-19, beer and wine 50% off. Cocktail of the day is 50% off.</p> <p>Íslenski Barinn
Every day, beer of the day for 650 ISK.</p> <p>Kaffibarinn
Red wine special on Wednesday evenings at 600 ISK a glass.</p> | <p>Nýlenduvöruverzlun Hemma & Valda
Happy Hour every day from 16-20, Viking Beers for 550 ISK.</p> <p>Óliver
Happy Hour Fridays and Saturdays from 23-01, 3x1 cocktails.</p> <p>Obla Di Obla Da
Happy Hour every day from 12-20, 500 ISK beers, 600 ISK shots and 800 ISK single + mixer.</p> <p>Prikið
Happy hour on weekdays from 17-19, large beer 400 ISK. Buy four large beers, get free nachos.</p> <p>Trúnó
Happy hour every day from 16-00, all beer and wine 500 ISK.</p> <p>Stofan
Refills on beer 600 ISK all day.</p> <p>Pingholt bar (Center Hotel Pingholt)
Happy Hour every day from 17-19 as of June 1 (currently every Friday and Saturday), all drinks are half off.</p> |
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Music & Entertainment | Venue finder

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Austur Austurstræti 7 E4	Dubliner Hafnarstræti 4 D4	Óliver Laugavegur 20A F5
B5 Bankastræti 5 E4	Esja Austurstræti 16 E4	Ólstofan Vegamótastígur F5
Babalú Skólavörðustígur 22 F5	English Pub Austurstræti 12 E4	Prikið Bankastræti E5
Bakkus Tryggvagata 22 D4	Faktorý Smíðjustígur 6 E5	Rósenberg Klapparstígur 25 E6
Bar 11 Hverfisgötu 18 E5	Ólsmiðjan Lækjargata 10 E4	Sódóma Reykjavík Tryggvagata 22 D3
Barbara Laugavegur 22 F5	Hressó Austurstræti 20 E4	Sólon Bankastræti 7A E5
Bjarni Fel Austurstræti 20 E4	Bankinn Hverfisgata 20 E5	Thorvaldsen Austurstræti 8 E4
Boston Laugavegur 28b F6	Kaffi Zimsen Hafnarstræti 18 D4	Trúnó Laugavegur 22 F5
Café Paris Austurstræti 14 E4	Kaffibarinn Bergstræti 1 E5	Vegamót Vegamótastígur 4 F6
Celtic Cross Hverfisgata 26 E5	NASA Þorvaldsenstræti 2 E3	Vestur Tryggvagata 20 D3
Den Danske Kro Ingólfstræti 3 F5	Nýlenduvöruverzlun Hemma & Valda Laugavegur 21 F5	

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* Tuesdays *

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* Wednesdays *

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* Fridays *

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* Saturdays *

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* Sundays *

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MUSIC

CONCERTS & NIGHTLIFE IN JULY & AUGUST

Barbara
21:00 Movie night at Barbara. Free popcorn

Café Oliver
22:00 Salsa Night

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live Music

Dubliner
21:00 Live Music

English Pub
21:30 Live Music

Faktóry
21:00 Live Jazz

Gallery Bar 46
22:00 Live Music

Hallgrímskirkja
17:00 Hörður Áskelsson, 2500 ISK

Harpa - Kaldalón Hall
17:00 Voces Mascarorum - Icelandic a capella, 3000 ISK

Trúnó
14:30 Elín Ey and Myrra

Viðey Island
11:30 Rainbow Family Festival

8 MON

Bakkus
21:00 Bakkus Movie Night.

Barbara
21:00 Screening of the **Real L word** season 2. Free entry and free popcorn.

Café Oliver
22:00 Margarita Night

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live Music

Dubliner
21:00 Live Music

English Pub
21:30 Live Music

Kaldalón, Harpa
17:00 Örn Arnarson & Sólveig Samúelsdóttir, 3000 ISK

9 TUE

Barbara
20:00 Boys night - girls included.

Café Oliver
22:00 Live Karaoke

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live Music

Dubliner
21:00 Live Music

English Pub
21:30 Live Music

Harpa - Kaldalón Hall
17:00 Halldór Laxness - The music in his life and in his works, 3000 ISK

Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum
20:30 Sigríður Ósk Kristjánsdóttir & Hrönn Þráinsdóttir, 2000 ISK

10 WED

Bakkus
22:00 Robot Disco

Café Oliver
22:00 Live Music

Celtic Cross
22:00 Open Mic

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live Music

Dubliner
21:00 Live Music

English Pub
21:30 Live Music

Faktóry
20:00 Pub Quiz

Hallgrímskirkja
12:00 Schola cantorum, 1500 ISK

Grapevine Top 6 Most Played tracks during the making of this issue

1 Structure Frame - Allstroemeria Records

2 Tokyo - The Books

3 Karma Police - Radiohead

4 Graveyard Shift - Uncle Tupelo

5 Seven (remix) - Fever Ray

6 Safe In Sound - Small Brown Bike



Be Loud! Be Proud! And Other Things That Rhyme With "Oud"!

The Gay Pride Ball with Páll Óskar!

August 6, 23:59

NASA

2000 ISK, available at www.midi.is

Put your dancing shoes on and head over to NASA where the Gay Pride Ball will be raging on August 6. Famous Icelandic pop star Páll Óskar will be there to make sure the event is as glamorous as can be! All the best gay anthems will be played (if this means a lot of Queen and a lot of Village People, I don't see how ANYONE could stay away!). And even if you're straight as an arrow, you can still be there to show your support! And just to have a good time in general! Other performers include Sigga Beinteins, Daniel Oliver, Hera Björk and Hafþ Haff! So be there or be prepared to have a subpar night!

Sódoma
22:00 Lísá Einars honours the women in Rock'n'roll

Factory
22:00 Coral, ticket price unconfirmed

Hallgrímskirkja
12:00 Jörg Sonderrmann, 1500 ISK

Kaldalón, Harpa
17:00 Women in Icelandic music, 3000 ISK

The Nordic House
20:00 Lost in a Legend concert

Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da
22:00 Live Music

Thorvaldsen
22:00 Salsa Night, Mojito offer

Vegamót
22:00 DJ Símon

ONGOING

Restaurant Reykjavík
20:00 Let's Talk Iceland: Comedy Show. 2200 ISK. *Everyday*

Iðnó
20:00 Cellophane Comedy show. *Thursdays*

11 THU

B5
00:00 Local DJ

Bakkus
22:00 DJ Dóri

Bar 11
21:00 Vintage Caravan

Café Oliver
22:00 Ingó Verðurguð

Celtic Cross
22:00 Local DJ

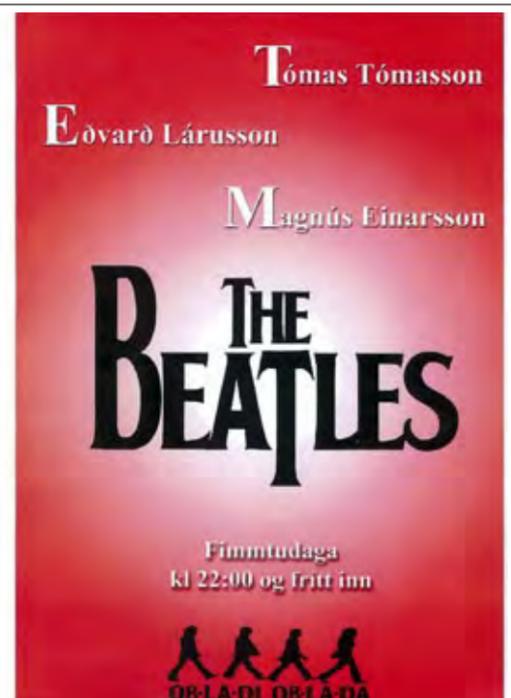
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live Music

Dubliner
20:00 Irish Session

English Pub
21:30 Live Music

Esja
22:00 Steini's Sax trio - Jazzy/Funky night

FREE CONCERT
Every Thursday



Happy Hour Every Day from 12 - 20

FESTIVALS

VERSLUNARMANNAHELGI

Verslunarmannahelgi

A feast for serious feasters



Chances are you have not been properly introduced to the term Verslunarmannahelgi. This labour day / bank holiday equivalent, dedicated to Icelandic merchants, is celebrated every summer on the 1st Monday in August (and all through the preceding weekend).

While only a small group of Icelanders belong to the class of merchants, they do celebrate this holiday in their honour with considerable enthusiasm. In true Icelandic fashion, thousands of people attend large outdoor festivals, camping in the great outdoors, and enjoying a lot of live music, while sending

off summer with a last hurrah.

Others take to the road, often on camping trips, only without the music (and the thousands of people to go with the music). As a result, this is usually the biggest weekend for domestic travel for Icelanders. You can expect packed roads and deserted towns.

Should you find yourself in Iceland during Verslunarmannahelgi, you may want to take a look at some of the festivals available. The largest outdoor festivals are usually the modestly named National Festival in Vestmannaeyjar Islands, The One With Every-

thing Festival in Akureyri and The Flying Sparks festival in Neskaupstaður. If camping is not your thing, there is also the annual music festival Innipúkinn in Reykjavík.

In addition, there are two large annual sporting events during the weekend. One is the Teenagers' National Competition, held in Egilsstaðir this year, and the European Championship in Swamp Soccer in Ísafjörður.

In conclusion, here is a list of Verslunarmannahelgi festivals that have been announced. Have fun! 🍻

Ein með öllu ('The One With Everything Festival')

Where: Akureyri
When: July 28 - August 1
Entrance: FREE

Færeyskir fjölskyldudagar ('Faroese family days')

Where: Stokkseyri
When: July 29 - July 31
Entrance: Friday, 1990 ISK, Saturday, 4400 ISK, and Sunday, 4400 ISK

Innipúkinn Festival

Where: Reykjavík
When: July 29 - July 31
Entrance: 4500 ISK (three-day pass) / 2.900 ISK (single day)

Neistapug ('Sparks')

Where: Neskaupstaður
When: July 28 - July 31
Entrance: FREE, with the exception of select events

'Sildarævintýri' (Herring Festival)

Where: Siglufjörður
When: July 29 - August 1
Entrance: FREE

Sæludagar (Happy days)

Where: Vatnaskógur
When: July 28 - July 31
Entrance: 4000 ISK

Þjóðhátíð

Where: Vestmannaeyjar
When: July 29 - August 1
Entrance: 16900 ISK

Unlingalandsmót UMFÍ

Where: Egilsstaðir
When: July 29 - July 31
Entrance: 6000 ISK

Swamp soccer

Where: Ísafjörður
When: July 30 - August 1
Registration fee: 7000 ISK

WHALE WATCHING EXPRESS



„That was marvellous! We saw many whales and dolphins. Fantastic.“
-Samantha

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Spend more time whale watching and less time waiting.

Takes only 2-2½ hours

We offer free pick-up in the Reykjavik area!



WHALE WATCHING TOURS

APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OKT
10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00
	14:00	14:00	14:00	14:00	14:00	
		17:00	17:00	17:00		
			15 JUL - 15 AUG	20:00	20:00	

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PUFFIN WATCHING



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Five times daily: 8:30, 10:30, 12:30, 14:30 and 16:30.

Only 20 Euros!

Sea Angling Trips also available daily at 18:00.



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Café Loki
in front of Hallgrímskirkja
open 10-21

Enjoy some solid homemade Icelandic food

MAP

Places We Like

1 Sægreifinn

Geirsgötu 8

Down by the Reykjavík harbour, Sægreifinn fish shop and restaurant is a pretty unique establishment. The menu features various fish dishes (including most of the "crazy Icelandic food" you'll want to tell your friends you had) and a rich portion of some pretty good lobster soup. Good food and welcoming service make this place a must-try.

2 Á Næstu Grösum

Laugavegur 20B

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

3 English Pub

Austurstræti 12

True to its name, the English Pub offers a wide variety of lager on tap and a whiff of that genuine UK feel. You may also try their famous "wheel of fortune" with the chance of winning up to a metre of beer with a single spin. Cheers!

4 Hamborgarabúllan

Geirsgata 1

Considered by some to be the best real hamburger in Reykjavík, "Bullán" does serve some mysteriously delicious burgers, guaranteed to take the edge off any hangover.

5 Kaffismiðja Íslands

Kárástíg 1

Old fashioned charm is the style of Kaffismiðja, in everything from the decor to the coffee grinders. Off the beaten track, this popular coffee shop is a great spot to sit and read or have a chat with friends. The owners Ingbjörg and Sonja take great pride in the beans they use and the coffee is top notch. You can buy fresh grounds too, in case you just can't get enough.

6 Tíu Dropar

Laugavegur 27

If you're sick of all the arty cafés, filled with Sigur Rós wannabes and their Macs, browsing Facebook, go to Tíu Dropar. It's a back-to-basics Icelandic café that hasn't changed their interior since the 60s. Really proves the saying 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it.' Plus, the coffee's great.



7 Kryddlegin Hjörtu

Skúlagata 17

The restaurant Kryddlegin Hjörtu, "Spicy hearts", specializes in healthy and rich gourmet soups, homemade spelt bread and an exclusive salad bar. They are located by the seaside with a spectacular view of the mountains to the north. They are located in a newly built house at Skúlagata 17. Closed on Sundays.

8 Nonnabiti

Hafnarstræti 9

Delicious and relatively cheap considering how massive and filling their sandwiches are. The Luxury Sub, with salty pork, veggies, sauce and pineapple is a brilliant combination of flavours for late-night munchies. It's just as satisfying and filling during more civilized hours as well. And the service is fast if you're in a rush.

9 Núðluhúsið

Laugavegur 59

Although hardly breaking new ground in Thai cuisine, Núðluhúsið is a safe bet for a cheap, generously portioned, tasty enough meal. You can expect fresh ingredients and fast, courteous service. So if you're wondering which of the many Thai restaurants to choose from on a low budget, we recommend Núðluhúsið.

Useful numbers

Emergency number: **112**

Medical help: **1770**

Dental emergency: **575 0505**

Information: **118**

Taxi: Hreyfill-Bæjarleiðir: **588 5522**

BSR: **561 0000**

Tax Free Refund

Iceland Refund, Aðalstræti 2, tel: 564 6400

Tourist information

Arctic Adventures, Laugavegur 11,

tel: 562 7000

City Centre, Aðalstræti 2, tel: 590 1550

Iceland Excursions – Grayline Iceland,

Hafnarstræti 20, tel: 540 1313

The Icelandic Travel Market, Bankastræti

2, tel: 522 4979

Trip, Laugavegur 54, tel: 433 8747

Pharmacies

Lyf og heilsa, Egilsgata 3, tel: 563 1020

Lyfja, Laugavegur 16, tel: 552 4045 and

Lágmúla 5, tel: 533-2300

Coach terminal

BSÍ, Vatnsmýrarvegur 10,

tel: 562 1011, www.bsi.is

Domestic airlines

Air Iceland, Reykjavíkurbúgvöllur,

tel: 570 3030, www.pugfelag.is

Eagle Air, Hótel Loftleiðir, tel: 562-4200

Public transport

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

Opening Hours

Bars and clubs: According to regulations, bars can stay open until 01:00 on weekdays and 05:30 on weekends.

Shops: Mon.–Fri. 10:00–18:00, Sat.

10:00–16:00, Sun. closed. The shopping centres Kringlan and Smáralind as well as most supermarkets and tourist shops have longer opening hours.

Swimming pools: Weekdays 06:30–22:00 and weekends 09:00–17:00, although each pool varies plus or minus a few hours. **Banks** in the centre are open Mon.–Fri. 09:00–16:00.

Post Offices

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

Raggi from the band Árstíðir is the unstoppable...

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Live music - every night
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And our infamous Wheel of Fortune

THE ENGLISH PUB
Austurvöllur



For a map of outside downtown Reykjavík visit www.grapevine.is or the Icelandic phonebook website www.ja.is

If you have an iPhone, check out the cool Locatify app in the AppStore. It's got a FREE guided audio tour of the downtown area, courtesy of your pals at Grapevine.

NEW IN TOWN



The Grill Market, Lækjargata 2a

New in Reykjavík, Grillmarkaðurinn (The Grill Market) is renowned chef Hrefna Rósa Sætran's latest culinary venture. With a specially crafted grill made to withstand extreme heat, Hrefna and team are serving up juicy Icelandic dishes to the carnivore's delight. You can also be sure that they use seasonal ingredients straight from the farm. If her restaurant The Fish Market is any indication of what to expect, this newbie promises to enhance to the quality of life for the foodie in Reykjavík. And already since opening one month ago, it is dazzling restaurant goers.



A DAY IN THE LIFE

Silja Bára Ómarsdóttir

What's up, Silja?

I'm working on what will hopefully become Iceland's next constitution—and the first one written from scratch by Icelanders, although we're getting a lot of pointers from abroad after our interactive method of work garnered the attention of the global media. This is a 9–5 job, with a lot of work at night and on weekends, as we're only given four months to do it. So my spring and summer are taken up entirely by this process, although I'm trying to finish up a couple of articles for publication.

EARLY MORNING >

On a weekday morning I'll normally grab yoghurt and some fruit to go and get my coffee at work after riding my bike from Vesturbær to Kringlan, where our offices are. If I get up early, a stop at Café Haiti by the port, Kaffitár on Bankastræti, or Kaffismiðjan on Kárastræti are a welcome variety. Café Haiti and Kaffismiðjan probably do the best coffee, but the odds of running into someone I know are greater at Kaffitár.

LUNCH >

Working right by Kringlan, Portið has become my go-to spot for off-site lunch. But during my regular work-week (at the University of Iceland) the fantastic restaurant Dill at the Nordic House is my absolute favourite. Limited options (one salad, one soup, one main course, pick one, two or three) but they're all good and the slow food approach really appeals to me (they're as far as I know the only restaurant in Iceland to grow some of their own ingredients right out back).

MID-DAY >

If I'm at home I'll take a walk along Ægisíða; on a good day you can sit on a sheltered bench and look out at the sea. Keep walking around the airport to Nauthólsvík and dip your toes in the sea, and then come back around Öskjuhlíð and you'll have gotten a taste of the Reykjavík outdoors.

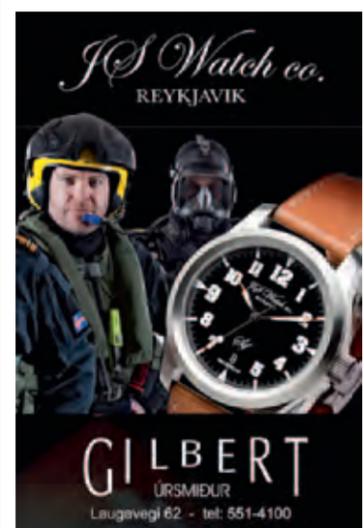
AFTERNOON >

After work I enjoy getting a coffee or a drink and doing some people watching at Austurvöllur. My favourite is Íslenski barinn—if you get a seat out front in nice weather that's where you can get the most sunlight. Inside there are a plethora of Icelandic historical and literary mementos and handicrafts, and of course the nostalgic nationalist décor makes it obvious that the place took on its present character after the crash. Look around and you'll see men everywhere—the pictures, the books, but all the handicrafts are women's work. I always think somebody needs to do a gender analysis of the place.

HEAT OF THE NIGHT >

Uno is my present favourite place to eat. Reasonable prices and quick service. I also just tried Grillmarkaðurinn and I am in love. Chef Hrefna Rósa does amazing stuff at Fiskmarkaðurinn, but her latest restaurant is a real experience. Great ingredients, crispy vegetables and wonderfully fresh fish. The molten chocolate ball dessert is to die for! The location is a newly rebuilt house in the middle of downtown, so it's great to start your evening there or come by after hanging around Austurvöllur earlier in the day. Ölstofan is my nighttime hangout. I keep trying to go to other places, but that's always where I end up. Not the place for those looking for music or dancing, but on the rare occasions I feel like dancing I'll go to Boston.

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10 Barbara

Laugavegur 22

At Laugavegur 22, above Trúnó, Barbara serves up a lively atmosphere for Reykjavík's gay community and anybody else who just wants to dance and have a good time. The first level is made for dancing and is often packed with sweaty bodies, while the second level of the bar offers a place to sit, drink and chat with another and in which to smoke.

11 OSUSHI

Lækjargata 2a

Great place to satisfy your craving for raw fish and vinegar rice. The selection on 'the train' is wide and varied and the atmosphere is relaxed. Also, the colour-coded plates make it easy to keep tabs on your budget while scarfing down your maki and nigiri.

12 Kaffifélagið

Skólavörðustíg 10

Kaffifélagið has been a Grapevine favourite since they opened on Skólavörðustígur a couple of years back. The small coffeehouse always delivers an excellent cup of Italian-style coffee, and downtown regulars can spring for a clip-off coffee card to save on each purchase.

Public phones

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

Internet Access

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

The National and University Library, Arngrímsgata 3

Tourist Information Centre, Aðalstræti 2
Icelandic Travel Market, Bankastræti 2
Reykjavík Backpackers, Laugavegur 28

Swimming Pools

There are several swimming pools in Reykjavík. The one in 101 Reykjavík, Sundhöll Reykjavíkur, is an indoor one, located at Barónsstígur. That pool features a nice sunbathing area and some outdoor hot tubs. Opening hours: Monday to Thursday from 06:30–22:00, Friday from 06:30–20:00, Saturday from 08:00–16:00, and Sunday from 10:00–18:00.

Public Toilets

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



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RESTAURANT

Lunch menu

- Cream of lobster soup** 1490.-
Garlic roasted lobster
- Lobster & escargot "ragout"** 1590.-
Mushrooms, garlic
- Whale "sashimi" dip sauce** 1290.-
Mushrooms, herbs, ginger, red beets
- Lobster "maki"** 1590.-
Avocado, mango, cucumber, chilli mayo
- Lobster salad** 1490.-
Rucola, pumpkin seeds, fruit chutney

VEGETARIAN

- Veggie steak** 1790.-
Red beets, potatoes, parsnip

FISH

- Catch of the day** 1990.-
Please ask your waiter

- Lobster grill** 4890.-
200 gr. lobster, horseradish, salad

DESSERTS

- Chocolate "2 ways"** 990.-
White and dark chocolate, fruits

- "Lazy-daisy"** 990.-
Coconut, yoghurt

Located in Central Reykjavik
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humarhusid@humarhusid.is



ART

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS IN JULY & AUGUST

COCKTAIL PLEASURES AND VISUAL STIMULATION

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

OPENINGS

Bió Paradís
August 7
Queer films
Screening of several films, as part of the Gay Pride program

Hafnarborg
August 7
Curator's Talk
The ideas of the architect Einar Thorsteinn will be discussed at 20:00 with the curator Pétur H. Ármannsson

August 11
Curator's Talk
The Ideas of the architect Einar Thorsteinn will be discussed at 20:00 with the curator Goddur

The Nordic House
August 8
Movie screening "Future of Food"
Film about Sesselja Sigmundsdóttir, the founder of Sólheimar Eco-village. 19:00.

Skaffell, Seyðisfjörður
July 31
Gardenparty - The Mountain Woman Fellowship
Performances, music, snacks and sauna.

Tjarnarbió Theater
August 7
The Traitor
Theater at 20:00, 1000 ISK (Performed in Icelandic)

ONGOING

ASÍ Art Museum
The ASÍ 50 Years Anniversary
Runs until September 11

The Culture House
Child of Hope - Youth and Jón Sigurðsson
Exploring the life of Icelandic national hero Jón Sigurðsson, made especially

accessible to children, families, and school groups
On permanent view
Medieval Manuscripts - Eddas and Sagas

Some of Iceland's medieval manuscripts on display. Guided tour in English on Mondays & Fridays at 15:00
On permanent view

Millennium - phase one
Selection of pieces from the collection of the National Gallery displaying a variety of works by Icelandic artists in the last two centuries.
On permanent view

The Library Room
The old reading room of the National Library. Displaying books of Icelandic cultural history dating from the 16th century to the present. Works include oldest published versions of the Sagas, Eddic Poems, and more
On permanent view

Galleri Fold
Marta Rosolska Photography
Runs until November 14

Gallery Ófeigur
Journey into Landscapes
Iceland paintings by Liverpool artist Sylvia Hikins
Runs until August 24

Gerðarsafn
Fellow Icelanders Installations
Exhibition by Icelandic artists Árni Páll Jóhannsson and Pétur Finnbogason
Runs until July 31

Gerðuberg
Gagn og gaman
Exhibition of works produced by children who took part in 'Gagn og gaman' craft and activity courses in the period 1988-2004
Runs until August 28

Hafnarborg
Ingenuity - Einar Thorsteinn
Exhibition of works by Icelandic architect and artist Einar Thorsteinn Ásgeirsson
Runs until August 14

From Hafnarborg collection
Display of works by the most important Icelandic artists from early early 20th century
Runs until August 14

Hönnunarsafn - Museum of Design
Our Objects - from the Museum's Collection
Objects acquired by the Museum since its opening in 1998 will be put on display in the exhibition area. Objects include Icelandic and foreign furniture, graphic design, textiles, ceramics, and glass, to name a few
Runs until October 16

Robert Mapplethorpe exhibition
The gallery display its first exhibition of works by this photographer
Runs until August 10

Knitting Iceland
Come and knit at Laugavegur 25, 3rd floor, every Thursday, 14:00 - 18:00
On permanent view

L51 Artcenter
Impressions of Iceland
Paintings by Konstantinos Zaponidis inspired by the unique colors and original nature of this fascinating country.
Runs until August 31

The Living Art Museum
Literacy
Exhibition of works from the collection
Runs until August 11

National Gallery of Iceland
Femme - Louise Bourgeois
28 works by Louise Bourgeois, principally installations or "cells" and sculptures, but also paintings, drawings and textiles
Runs until September 11

Kjarval, from the collection of Jón Þorsteinnsson and Eyrún Guðmundsdóttir
Exhibition of cubist paintings by Jóhannes S. Kjarval
Runs until September 11

Strides
Changes in Icelandic painting from the late 1800s to the 2000s
Runs until December 31, 2012

The National Museum
The Making of a Nation - Heritage and History in Iceland
This exhibition is intended to provide insight into the history of the Icelandic nation from the Settlement to the present day.
On permanent view

BE YE WELCOME, MY GOOD FRIENDS!
Collection of carved Nordic drinking horns
Runs until December 31

Carved Coffers
From the collection of the National Museum
Runs until August 31



Sesselja's Vision On The Silver Screen

Check out the Future of Food at The Nordic House!

August 8, 19:00

The Nordic House

Possible entrance fee

The Nordic House is showing the Plm 'Future of Food,' which highlights the life and importance of Sesselja Sigmundsdóttir, who started the Eco-village Sólheimar back in 1930 after being inspired by Rudolf Steiner, the founder of the spiritual movement anthroposophy.

Today, it's a small international community of about one hundred inhabitants that strives to give everyone the opportunity to reach their maximum potential through the community. It is also one of largest producers of organic vegetables in Iceland, and is practicing the most sustainable ways of living in the country, notably making good use of solar energy.

If you're an environmentalist or just someone who's open to new ideas, then this is not a movie to miss!

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ART

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS IN JULY & AUGUST



Spend The Weekend At A Remote Lighthouse

Labour day weekend

Galtarviti Lighthouse

Campsite: 500 ISK/night. Space in a 12 person tent is also available for 700 ISK/night.

Looking for the ultimate escape for Verslunarmannahelgi weekend? Then head out to the Westfjords, and join artist and mountaineer Sara Riel on a short trek from Skalavik to the Galtarviti Lighthouse. There, you can spend a weekend in a majestic setting without modern distractions like cell phone reception. As Sara told the Grapevine: "There's something very special about this place. It's hard to put a finger on it, but I think it's a combination of its isolation and the beautiful yet dramatic nature surrounding it..." That being said, it's no wonder that writers, artists and musicians, including Múm, have been heading out there to create their masterpieces.

The 'Echo Of The North' exhibit will also be open with guided tours, and you can expect to see some great musicians playing over the weekend as well.

Labour Day Weekend Schedule

- Friday** The hike to the Galtarviti Lighthouse begins at 21:00 from Skalavik. Baggage, wine and food will be transported by boat.
- Saturday** CampPre song and grill.
- Sunday** Eggs, bacon and pancake brunch
- Monday** Hike back to Skálavík and drive back to Bolungarvík.



THE VIKING : INFO

Laugavegur 1 • Reykjavík • 581 1250
 Hafnarstræti 3 • Reykjavík • 551 1250
 Hafnarstræti 104 • Akureyri • 4615551
 Aðalstræti 27 • Ísafjörður
 Edna • Hveragerði

email: theviking@simnet.is



Art | Venue finder

ART67
 Laugavegur 67 | **F7**
 Mon - Fri 12 - 18 / Sat
 12 - 16

Artótek
 Tryggvagata 15 | **D4**
 Mon 10-21, Tue-Thu 10-19, Fri
 11-19, Sat and Sun 13-17
 www.sim.is/Index/Islenska/Artotek

ASÍ Art Museum
 Freyrgata 41 | **G6**
 Tue-Sun 13-17

Árbæjarsafn
 Kistuhylur 4

The Culture House
 Hverfisgata 15 | **E5**
 Open daily 11-17
 www.thjodmenning.is

Dwarf Gallery
 Grundarstígur 21 | **F4**
 Opening Hours: Fri and Sat 18-20
 www.this.is/birta/dwarfgallery

The Einar Jónsson
 Eiríksgröta 1 | **G5**
 Tue-Sun 14-17
 www.skulptur.is

Gallery Ágúst
 Baldursgata 12 | **G4**
 Wed-Sat 12-17
 www.galleriagust.is

Gallery Fold
 Rauðarástígur 14-16 | **G8**
 Mon-Fri 10-18 / Sat 11-16 / Sun
 14-16
 www.myndlist.is

Gallery Kaolin
 Ingólfsstræti 8 | **F4**

Gallery Kling & Bang
 Hverfisgata 42 | **E5**
 Thurs-Sun from 14-18
 this.is/klingogbang/

Gerðuberg Cultural Centre
 Gerðuberg 3-5
 Mon-Thu 11-17 / Wed 11-21 / Thu-
 Fri 11-17 / Sat-Sun 13-16
 www.gerduberg.is

Hitt Húsið
 - Gallery Tukt
 Pósthússtræti 3-5 | **E4**
 www.hittusid.is

i8 Gallery
 Tryggvagata 16 | **D3**
 Tue-Fri 11-17 / Sat 13-17 and by
 appointment. www.i8.is

Living Art Museum
 Skúlagata 28 | **D6**
 Wed, Fri-Sun 13-17 / Thu 13-22.
 www.nylo.is

Hafnarborg
 Strandgötu 34,
 Hafnarfjörður

Mokka Kaffi
 Skólavörðustíg 3A | **E5**

The National Gallery of Iceland
 Fríkirkjuvegur 7 | **F4**
 Tue-Sun 11-17
 www.listsafn.is

The National Museum
 Suðurgata 41 | **G2**
 Open daily 10-17
 natmus.is

The Nordic House
 Sturlugata 5
 Tue-Sun 12-17
 www.nordice.is/

Nútímalist Galleria
 Skólavörðustígur 3a | **E5**
Restaurant Reykjavík
 Vesturgata 2 | **D3**

Reykjavík 871+/-2
 Aðalstræti 17 | **D3**
 Open daily 10-17

Reykjavík Art Gallery
 Skúlagata 28 | **D6**
 Tuesday through Sunday 14-18

Reykjavík Art Museum
 Open daily 10-16
 www.listsafnreykjavikur.is
Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum
 Sigtún
Hafnarhús Tryggvagata 17 | **D3**
Kjarvalsstaðir Flókagata | **I7**

Reykjavík Maritime Museum
 Grandagarður 8 | **B2**

Reykjavík Museum of Photography
 Tryggvagata 16 | **D3**
 Weekdays 12-19 / Sat-Sun 13-17 -
 www.ljosmyndasafnreykjavikur.is

Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum
 Laugamestangi 70

SÍM, The Association of Icelandic Artists
 Mon-Fri 10-16
 Hafnarstræti 16 | **D4**

Spark, Design Space
 Klapparstíg 33 | **F5**
 www.sparkdesignspace.com

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ART

IN JULY & AUGUST



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Make Do and Mend

Repaired objects from the collection of the National Museum
Runs until September 1

Ásfjall

Collection of Pétur Thomsen's photographs
Runs until October 2

Kurt Dejmo exhibition

Collection of Kurt Dejmo's photographs
Runs until October 2

The Nordic House

The Library

The collection centres on new Nordic literature, both fiction and non-fiction. The library lends out novels, academic publications, audio books and more
On permanent view

Relations

The title refers to the relations between different kinds of phenomena. The works are mixed media on canvas.
Runs until August 14

Paintings by Agneta Ekholm

The Swedish artist opens an exhibition of selected paintings in the main entrance of the gallery.
Runs until August 14

Reykjavík Art Museum

Ásmundarsafn

From Sketch to Sculpture - Drawings by Ásmundur Sveinsson
Runs until April 22, 2012

Magnús Árnason - Homage
Runs until April 22, 2012

Hafnarhús

Erró - Assemblage

These works are composed of ready-made objects and waste from industrial and bourgeois society.
Runs until August 28

Erró - Collage

Runs until August 21

Perspectives - On the Borders of Art and Philosophy

Comprehensive exhibit that represents the breadth and diversity of styles and artistic media pursued in Iceland today
Runs until September 4

Kjarvalsstaðir

Jóhannes S. Kjarval - Key Works

Runs until January 15, 2012

Jór! Horses in Icelandic Art

Runs until August 21

Workshop

Open and informative workshop for children and families in connection with the exhibition Jór! Horses in Icelandic Art. Make a reservation in advance by email: fraedsluideild@reykjavik.is

Runs until August 21

Reykjavík City Museum

Reykjavík 871 +/- 2 (The Settlement Exhibition)

Archaeological findings from ruins of one of the first houses in Iceland and other excavations in the city centre
On permanent view

Reykjavík Maritime Museum

From Poverty to Abundance

Photos documenting Icelandic fishermen at the turn of the 20th century
On permanent view

The History of Sailing

Iceland's maritime history and the growth of the Reykjavík Harbour
On permanent view

The Coast Guard Vessel Óðinn

Display of vessel that took part in all three Cod Wars
On permanent view

Baiting Bright Fishhooks

Exhibition about the Little Fishing Book by Jón Sigurðsson, containing guidelines to fishing equipment and processing.
Runs until December 31

The Herring Adventure

This exhibition explores the adventurous herring era, using the photographs of Haukur Helgason from 1953-57, the



Inspired By Iceland

Konstantinos Zaponidis shows us his 'Impression of Iceland'

Runs until August 31, Monday through Friday from 10:00 - 19:00, Saturdays 10:00 - 18:00 and Sundays 13:00 - 16:00.

Artcenter, Laugavegur 51

Free

Hey guess what! Greek artist Konstantinos Zaponidis is exhibiting for the first time in Iceland, with an exhibition conveniently inspired by the magical colours of good ol' Icelandic nature. Since studying Byzantine art, Fine arts and working in Boston as a graphic artist, Konstantinos has staged displays of his artwork all over the place (for instance in Greece, France, the U.S., Canada, England and Germany)—and now he's here.

The experience and awareness that Konstantinos Zaponidis reportedly acquired studying art in several countries should make his exhibition, entitled 'The Impression of Iceland', worth seeing.

J&S Watch co.
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Distinctly Icelandic

Professor Árni Björnsson director of the ethnological department of the National Museum of Iceland and a well-known authority on Icelandic folklore and traditions

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Reykjavík - Laugavegur 62 - Sími: 551 3340 - www.horni.is

ART

IN JULY & AUGUST

short film of Sigurður Guðmundsson from 1941 and various objects related to the herring fishing.

Runs until September 18

The Call of Sagas

An exhibition from Finland about an adventurous voyage in an open boat from Finland to Iceland, honoring the old viking shipping routes.

The Watercolours of Ólafur Thoralacius

Ólafur Þór worked with the Icelandic Coast Guard for many years as a mapmaker. He is now retired and paints beautiful watercolours in his free time.

Reykjavík Museum of Photography

The Photographs of Leifur Þorsteinsson

Exhibition of the work of Icelandic photographer Leifur Þorsteinsson

Runs until August 28

Reykjavík Citizens - Photos from a working man

Karl Christian Nielsen's exhibition depicts photos of everyday life between 1916 and 1950

Runs until August 28

Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum

Sigurjón Ólafsson's Pillars & "Ice-lander"

The pillar in its various forms is one of the leitmotifs of the work of sculptor Sigurjón Ólafsson, from his first independent work in Copenhagen in the 1930s to his final works of 1982.

Runs until August 28

Spark Design Space

Thread

Spark presents two generations of jewelry makers

Runs until September 1



23 July

24 Aug

Liverpool Artist Adopts Iceland

July 23 - August 24

Gallery Ófeigur

Free

Liverpool artist Sylvia Hikins has been inspired by Iceland in many ways. Having travelled to the country several times during different times of the year, she has experienced all of Iceland's extremes. From the frozen waterfalls and northern lights to blushing summer sunsets, she explains that she feels a strong connection to the landscape.

In Iceland, she says she has never felt so utterly removed and connected at the same time. "The beautiful part about Iceland is that though you may be in a city, you are still totally immersed in nature. It's not hard to get lost."

After feeling a consistent pull towards the Icelandic landscape and culture, she decided to undergo a Viking DNA test and found out that she was 70% Viking. "If it wasn't for westernization I would still be speaking Icelandic", she explains.

An important event that spurred a short series of paintings in her collection was when she flew in a small plane over Eyjafjallajökull during its eruption. She was in complete awe of its destructive beauty and felt a strong urge to express this experience artistically.

Her abstract paintings focus mostly on the interplay of shadows, and underlying cultural values respected in the landscape. In addition, many of her paintings were inspired by poetry she had previously written about her past trips to Iceland. She loves that it's easy to let your imagination run away with you, and she says it makes perfect sense that elves are such a huge part of the Icelandic folklore.

Finally, her relationship with Iceland has come to a head in the form of an art show, though her physical self will be traveling the Icelandic countryside, where she feels truly at home.





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

* From 15 June to 15 August.

- **EL-04 Sea Angling** 1 May - 30 September at 11:00 and 1 June - 31 August also at 17:00
- **EL-05 Puffin Tour** 15 May - 15 August at 9:30 and 15:00
- **EL-07 Ferry to Viðey** all year round

Free entry to the
Whale Watching Centre





Perspectives - On the Borders of Art and Philosophy. Claudio Parmiggiani, Untitled, 2008.



Jör! Horses in Icelandic Art



Erró - Collage



Magnús Árnason - Homage



From Sketch to Sculpture - Drawings by Ásmundur Sveinsson

Guided tours in English at Kjarvalsstaðir all Thursdays at 11 a.m. in July and August.

18 Sept. 2010 - 21 August 2011 Erró - Collage	3 May 2010 - 15 January 2012 Kjarval - Key Works	30 April 2011 - 15 April 2012 From Sketch to Sculpture - Drawings by Ásmundur Sveinsson
21 May - 4 September Perspectives - On the Borders of Art and Philosophy	7 May - 21 August Jör! Horses in Icelandic Art	30 April 2011 - 15 April 2012 Magnús Árnason - Homage
28 July - 28 August Erró - Assemblage	7 May - 21 August Colours of the Horse	

Hafnarhús

Tryggvagata 17
Open daily
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursdays 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

www.artmuseum.is

Kjarvalsstaðir

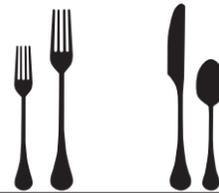
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Ásmundarsafn

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SIGHING OF THE LAMBS

1919 Restaurant

Pósthússtræti 2, 101 Reykjavík



What We Think: High end cuisine, excellent on the basics, unadventurous
Flavour: New Scandinavian-ish/French-ish/local food-ish
Ambiance: Romantic more than business lounge
Service: Fantastic!

1919 Restaurant is on the first floor of the Radisson Blu 1919 Hotel (luckily that wasn't the first mouthful of the evening).

The restaurant looks elegant and minimal and the designers did a good job of marrying the slightly bland lounge chic style of the pre-recession hotel build-up with the history of this wonderful building in downtown Reykjavík—having already made the wise decision of removing the crest of Eimskipafélag Íslands (a pre-Nazi swastika), from the gable of the house in favour of a '1919' sign indicating the year that it was built.

My dining partner and I arrived early for dinner service and therefore had the dining area almost entirely to ourselves. So while it's true that the servers had little else to busy themselves with in terms of dining service, I must still commend them for absolutely top-notch service. We had two excellent servers and I swore I would remember the name of the main one, but the red

wine that followed made short work of those vows (was it Raoul? Let's go with Raoul...sorry other gentleman).

The menu was trimmed down to a perfect, unbloated page and a half. For starters I ordered the 1919 Hot pot (1190 ISK), while my dining partner ordered the garlic-fried langoustine with crispy dark bread and citrus sauce (2850 ISK). This was promising as I am a big fan of Japanese-style hot pots and liked that they didn't try to pass the langoustine off as a lobster (which some places will do since the distinction isn't really made in the Icelandic language).

I regret to say that the hot pot was a bit disappointing. The broth was uninteresting and there were only one or two pieces of each fish—salmon, what I'm guessing was common ling and an unidentified third—in it. I was hoping for something closer to proper seafood Yosenabe. A plate of identifiable seafood that you cook yourself in some kind of Icelandified dashi stock would have been more interesting. The langoustine was subtle, but it does benefit from good fundamental cooking technique and not too much fussing with the flavouring. Excellent.

The salmon with lightly pickled leek and potato purée that my partner ordered as a main course didn't work quite as well. The salmon had excellent texture and slid off the bone like a dull-eyed cabana boy on a lounge chair and while I appreciate letting the main ingredient do the heavy lifting, the salmon could have used more seasoning.

However, the slow cooked lamb shank with baked beetroot and an

onion-potato purée was so perfectly cooked that I swore it sighed a "thank you" when I tucked into it (although that could just have been steam escaping). Any inclusion of baked/grilled/braised beetroot earns you immediate points in my book (it's the three-point free throw for rustic basics) and I couldn't have been happier.

For dessert, I avoided the omnipresent skyr dishes and opted for the caramel muffin (the special of the day) and he ordered the warm chocolate cake (1290 ISK each). The chocolate cake, which tasted a little like an upscale lava cake, was served with an inexplicable scoop of raspberry sherbet/sorbet/ice cream (as was my muffin). The caramel muffin was dense and topped with caramel sauce, but it was still just a muffin. No complaints, but nothing to call home about.

Overall, 1919 Restaurant does fine dining quite well. The lamb was brilliant, the langoustine was also very good and the chef has a very good handle on the cooking techniques. However, without wanting to encourage some Blumenthalian shenanigans, I feel they could go a little wilder with the seasoning and accompaniments as the hot pot and salmon, although far from bad, verged on the bland. 🍴

✍️ RAGNAR EGILSSON
 📷 JULIA STAPLES

Food & Drink | Venue finder

3 Frakkar

Baldursgata 14 | **G5**

Aktu Taktu

Skólugata 15 | **E7**

Alibaba

Veltusund 3b | **D3**

American Style

Tryggvagata 26 | **D4**

Argentina Steakhouse

Barónstígur | **F7**

Austurlanda-hraðlestin

Hverfisgata 64A | **F7**

Á Næstu Grösom

Laugavegur 20B | **F5**

B5

Bankastræti 5 | **E4**

Bakkus

Tryggvagata 22 | **D3**

Ban Thai

Laugavegur 130 | **G8**

Babalú

Skólavörðustígur 22A | **F5**

Bæjarins Beztu

Tryggvagata | **D4**

Íslenski Barinn

Pósthússtræti 9 | **E4**

Bar Ellefu

Hverfisgata 18 | **E5**

Café d'Haiti

Tryggvagata 12 | **D4**

Café Loki

Lokastígur 28 | **G6**

Café Paris

Austurstræti 14 | **E4**

Café Roma

Rauðarárstígur 8 | **G8**

Deli

Bankastræti 14 | **E5**

Domo

Binghóltsstræti 5 | **E4**

Einar Ben

Veltusundi | **D3**

Eidsmiðjan

Bragagata 38A | **G5**

Fiskmarkaðurinn

Aðalstræti 12 | **E3**

Geysir Bar/Bistro

Aðalstræti 2 | **D3**

Garðurinn

Klappastígur 37 | **F5**

Gata

Laugavegur 3 | **E5**

Glætan book café

Laugavegur 19 | **E5**

Grái Kötturinn

Hverfisgata 16A | **E5**

Grillhúsið

Tryggvagata 20 | **D3**

Habibi

Hafnarstræti 20 | **D4**

Hamborgarabúlla

Tómasar ("Bullán") Geirsgata 1 | **C3**

Hlöllla Bátar

Ingólfstorg | **D3**

Hornið

Hafnarstræti 15 | **D4**

Hótel Holt

Bergstaðarstræti 37 | **G5**

Humarhúsið

Amtmannstígur 1 | **E4**

Hressó

Austurstræti 20 | **E4**

Icelandic Fish & Chips

Tryggvagata 8 | **D3**

Indian Mango

Frakkastígur 12 | **F6**

Jómfrúin

Lækjargata 4 | **E4**

Fjalikonubakaríð

Laugavegur 21 | **F5**

Kaffiláglagið

Skólavörðustígur 10 | **E5**

Kaffitár

Bankastræti 8 | **E5**

Kaffivagninn

Grandagarður 10 | **B2**

Kofi Tómasar Frænda

Laugavegur 2 | **E5**

Kornið

Lækjargata 4 | **E4**

Krua Thai

Tryggvagata 14 | **D3**

La Primavera

Austurstræti 9 | **E4**

Mokka

Skólavörðustígur 3A | **E5**

Nonnabiti

Hafnarstræti 9 | **D4**

O Sushi

Lækjargata 2A | **E4**

Pisa

Lækjargötu 6b | **E4**

Pizza King

Hafnarstræti 18 | **D4**

Express Pizza

Vallarstræti 4 | **E4**

Gamla Smiðjan

Lækjargötu 8 | **E4**

Prikið

Bankastræti 12 | **E5**

Ráðhúskaffi

Tjarnargata 11 | **E3**

Santa Maria

Laugavegur 22A | **F6**

Serrano

Hringbraut 12 | **I5**

Shalimar

Austurstræti 4 | **E3**

Silfur

Pósthússtræti 11 | **E4**

Sjávarkjallarinn

Aðalstræti 2 | **D3**

Sólón

Bankastræti 7a | **E5**

Sushibarinn

Laugavegur 2 | **E5**

Sushismiðjan

Geirsgötu 3 | **C3**

Svarta Kaffi

Laugavegur 54 | **F7**

Sægreifinn

Verbúð 8, Geirsgata | **C3**

Tapas

Vesturgata 3B | **D3**

Thorvaldsen

Austurstræti 8 | **E4**

Tíu Dropar

Laugavegur 27 | **F5**

UNO

Hafnarstræti 1-3 | **D3**

Vegamót

Vegamótastígur 4 | **F5**

Við Tjóminna

Templarasund 3 | **E4**

Vitabar

Bergþórugata 21 | **G7**



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Here's a tip:
Take a dip!



Reykjavík's Thermal Pools

Thermal pools and baths in Reykjavík are a source of health, relaxation and pureness. 94% of foreign guests that visited thermal pools and baths in Reykjavík said it had a positive effect on their health and well-being.



REVIEWS



BLAH REYKJAVÍK

Thai Reykjavík is an extension from Suðurnes-fave Thai Keflavík. They recently opened in the old location of Kínahúsið, a friendly old building that's well situated in downtown Reykjavík.

I arrived just after lunch service, having missed the very reasonable 1490 ISK lunch offer. I ordered the Satay Kai (1.490 ISK) starter and Pad Thai (1.590 ISK), the Satay Kai being a Pan-Asian street food, and Pad Thai a basic national dish of Thailand.

The Satay Kai arrived more boiled than charred, served in one of those fashionable high bowls that are very poorly suited to a brochette of chicken crowded in with a tossed pickled salad and a small bowl of satay. I like my satay emulsified and heavy on the peanut, and this sauce was neither. To top it off there were two small hairs on the rim of the plate.

Pad Thai. The prawns were actual prawns (jumbo shrimp) and were surprisingly good. However, those six lonely prawns felt out of place on the sea of sloppy noodles. The noodles were overcooked and chewy, and the whole thing was heavy on fish sauce and oil. The tofu was soggy, the eggs were strips of omelette instead of scrambled in and the whole thing was as depressing to eat as it was to look at. It definitely needed more tamarind, more crushed peanuts. Oh, and one less hair.

With a little more attention to detail we could be looking at a kick-ass hang-over dish. But instead we are left with this.

Here's the thing, Thai Reykjavík is quite affordable and would work fine as a sloppy lunch deal for Johnny Brick-layer (God knows it would have worked fine for me back in my masonry days). But it doesn't work with this location

Thai Reykjavík

Lækjargata 8, 101 Reykjavík



What We Think: The prawns were alright

Flavour: Heavy & blunt—like a greasy mallet

Ambiance: Bright, friendly, workmanlike

Service: Nice

and presentation.

The options are either to scale down the presentation or whip the kitchen into shape. Frankly, we have enough sloppy Asian takeaway food and it would be great to see them going up against Ban Thai.

Thai food shares with Mexican food an amazing scalability. You will get Thai places that cover the whole spectrum, everything from bland inner city feeding-slots to fine dining experiences that rely on atmosphere and fresh ingredients. And every grade in between.

The location, exterior and decoration could lead you to believe Thai Reykjavík was aiming higher, but Thai Reykjavík falls far on the darker end of that spectrum. ☹

✍ RAGNAR EGILSSON
📷 JULIA STAPLES

3 X ICECREAM

1 ÍSBÚÐ VESTURBÆJAR

The undisputed master of Icelandic ice cream, Ísbúð Vesturbæjar beckons the people of Reykjavík to queue in the wind and rain, cold and less cold for a taste of the old and new soft serve with toppings and sauces of their choosing. Delish!

Hagamel 67, 107 Reykjavík

2 THE KIOSK IN INGÓLFSTORG

It's your ice cream fix in the heart of 101. The bonus feature of this place is that you can order your ice cream to look like a smiley face... ya know, if you're into that.

Ingólfstorg

3 10/11

Okay, so it's not nice fresh soft serve, but 10/11 on Austurstræti stocks a rather impressive freezer case of ice cream in more flavours than you'll find at the parlours.

Austurstræti 17

3 X FISH

1 MELABÚÐIN

Isn't it nice to walk up to a counter at a grocery store and there is somebody on the other side to serve you an assortment of fresh fish. It's reasonably priced, too.

Hagamelur 39

2 KOLAPORTIÐ

Reykjavík's weekly flea market boasts an expansive fish and meat section. Often some of the mongers are offering 2 for 1 on fillets of frozen fish. Sweet deal!

Tryggvagata 19

3 FISKBÚÐIN FREYJUGÖTU

This quintessential Icelandic fish store offers up a fresh catch of the day as well as pre-made fish dishes that just need to be tossed in the oven.

Freyjugata 1

3 X KIOSKS

1 RÍKIÐ

This isn't a cramped "just the basics" kiosk. Ríkið is spacious and stocks a wide selection of household goods, movies and food, including a large counter for ordering burgers, hotdogs and the likes.

Snorrabraut 56

2 DREKINN

The selection, like this kiosk, is small, but it still manages to have the bare necessities to suit your needs—especially your snacking needs. Rumour had it that Drekkinn stocks Reeses Peanut Butter Cups, though I've yet to find them there.

Njálsgata 23

3 SÖLUTURN GRUNDARSTÍG

This Grundarstígur mainstay once sold the cheapest cigarettes in town. Cigarette prices have been raised in recent months, but the pleasant memory remains. Plus this little shop makes a pretty good hotdog and has a wide selection of candy.

Grundarstígur 12



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OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK **SPECIAL** | Issue 2 | South & East

Full outside listings inside | Map | Places | Photos | 



(east of eden)

EAST OF EDEN

WORDS:
HAUKUR S. MAGNÚSSON

COVER PHOTO:
JULIA STAPLES

PHOTOGRAPHY ON TOUR:
JULIA STAPLES

OTHER PHOTOS:
THORSTEN HENN, SKARI

OUR CAMPER IS EXPLODING WITH JOY

CLIMB ABOARD 'HAPPY 2' FOR A FUN TRIP



We had a 'crazy' idea for making our second 'OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK' issue of the summer. Instead of driving around in a rental car, lodging at hotels and hostels on our way, why not try and get a camper that comfortably sleeps a writer and photographer so the two can make their way around Iceland with ultimate freedom, chasing interesting stories as they see fit. And we did it. You are at this very moment perusing the results of such a camper van trip; all the material for this pullout was made with nothing but a camper, some diesel fuel, some hiking boots and fiery hearts. Oh and cameras, computers and a notebook. Here's how we did it.

We called up the people at the 'Happy Camper' camper rental, after spotting their campers all over Iceland for the past year. Sideways glances at the 'Hap-

py Camper' campers convinced us that they were indeed kind of happy looking. After some negotiation, a 'Happy Camper' representative agreed to lend us a camper for five days in lieu of a logo and some photos for the 'Happy Camper' Facebook page. That seemed fair enough.

After picking up the camper, we then stocked up on foodstuffs at Krónan and set on our way south (then east), with nary an idea of what was to come, except we knew we'd be researching and travelling by day, writing and photo editing by night.

It was a strenuous schedule for sure; we somehow managed to drive the entire Ring Road while taking in some wonderful sights and meeting friendly and interesting locals wherever we went. It was tough at times, but we made it through unscathed carrying home 'so many memories'.

While travelling Iceland, one comes



across lots of campers and mobile homes. While the mode of travel looks beguiling enough, one cannot shake the feeling that it is somehow exclusive to old people. Having tried it, we can attest that it truly is a great way to venture cross Iceland. The freedom of being able to pull over at will and call wherever you may roam 'home'—there's nothing quite like it. Here is some advice: if you get the chance to go on a camper trip, do take it.

ABOUT OUR 'HAPPY CAMPER'

The brothers that own and operate 'Happy Campers' make all their campers themselves by remodelling vans they deem suit the purpose. "Our aim is simplicity," 'Happy Camper' manager Sverrir Thorsteinsson tells us as we pick up the van. "We build our campers to be as simple and easy to operate as possible. They are no frills, but they offer everything you need for a trip, in a compact and convenient manner."

The camper van we were allotted was of the 'Happy 2' variety (there are four varieties in all, in escalating prices. The cheapest one, 'Happy 2' is the smallest, while 'Happy 4' is equipped for off-road driving.

'Happy 2' is a remodelled Renault Trafic diesel van, and is reportedly their most popular camper. It comes with a portable gas stove, a heating system, a refrigerator, a sink with running water, sleeping room for two, pots and pans, dishes, cookware and cutlery... basically everything you need except a place to shit and shower.

"Bathroom and shower facilities take a lot of room, and are difficult to manage," Sverrir said as we left his parking lot, adding: "There are lovely swimming pools all over Iceland, and gas stations with restroom facilities. So you should have no problems."

'Happy 2' costs 35.000 ISK per day, including tax, insurance and mileage (and airport pickup). There is a 40% discount during winter season. More info at www.happycampers.is

OUR HAPPY CAMPER TRIP'S MOST PLAYED CDS:

- Mogwai - Come On Die Young
- Built To Spill - Keep It Like A Secret
- MellowHype - BlackenedWhite
- Snorri Helgason - Winter Sun
- Death in Vegas - The Contino Sessions
- The Notorious Big - Ready To Die
- Sloan - Navy Blues
- Sonic Youth - Goo
- Sigur Rós - ()

Distance from Reykjavik: ca. 150 km

Seljalandsfoss 1



When driving along the south coast of the country, admirable sights are only minutes apart, making the region a popular day-trip destination. Seljalandsfoss, a spectacular waterfall that drops 60 metres over a large cliff in the Eyjafjöll Mountains is one example. Seljalandsfoss has a distinctive feature, which makes it among the country's most photographed waterfalls. It is possible to walk behind it without getting soaking wet and capture unusual images from the other side. You don't have to worry about falling in the stream, a marked footpath leads the way.

Distance from Reykjavik: ca. 110 km

Reykholt 2



Reykholt, a parsonage in Reykholtsdalur valley, has a great historical significance to the Icelandic population. Reykholt is mostly famous for being the former mansion of Snorri Sturluson, born in 1179. He was a highly influential politician and historian as well as a widely acclaimed author. The main attraction is Snorrastofa, which houses an exhibition on Snorri's life and the history of Reykholt as well as an impressive library. Outside is a small geothermally heated bathing pool, Snorralaug, preserved since the time Reykholt was Snorri's home.



Finally! Ethiopian Food In Flúðir!

NEW RESTAURANT MINILIK SERVES UP
TRADITIONAL ETHIOPIAN DELIGHTS



3

Iceland sure has come a long way since its first Thai restaurant opened for business a couple of decades ago. One can now enjoy lavish meals from most corners of the world within Reykjavík, and this is great cause for celebration. It can only get better from here on. However, as one of our readers remarked in a letter earlier this year, a restaurant that specialises in the unique and excellent culinaria of Ethiopia has been sorely missed (those that have had the chance to enjoy Ethiopian cuisine will agree).

Fret no more, however! Iceland finally has an Ethiopian restaurant! And it's... in Flúðir?

Yes, it's true. Iceland's first ever Ethiopian restaurant, Minilik, is located in the village of Flúðir in the south of Iceland (if you went on a 'Golden Circle' tour you will have been fairly close by), which up until now has mostly been known for growing every single button mushroom that's consumed in Iceland.

A name worthy of an emperor

Minilik is named in honour of Emperor Minilik (1844–1913), who served as Ethiopia's emperor from 1889 until his death and is regarded a national hero—he is credited with, among other things, fending off Italy's attempts to colonise the country (Ethiopia is the only country in Africa that has never been colonised).

The menu is simple yet satisfying, listing seven staple dishes (including Kitfo, Siga Wott and Minchetabish), a couple of smaller ones (the Sambusa was great), as well as your standard dessert fare. The food is served in a traditional Ethiopian manner (you eat with your hand, and it comes with pancakes) and you can even finish off your meal with 'Ceremonial Ethiopian Coffee, The Traditional Way,' which entails a meticulously re-enacted fifteen minute long coffee roasting/making ceremony that's heavy on aroma and surpassed only by the actual coffee you get at the end.

Located in the old Flúðir tourist centre, Minilik is a small and relatively charming restaurant that manages to spice up the 'summer cottage' style interior and exterior with Ethiopian posters and flare.

We should note that the pricing policy is very moderate.

A welcome addition

After we enjoyed a fine meal at Minilik (and then enjoyed snickering at our fellow Ring Road travellers that were making do with unsavoury sjoppa burgers at that very moment) we talked to owner and proprietor Azeb Khasai, who founded the restaurant along with her husband, Árni Magnús Hannesson, her sister Lemlem Khasai and her husband, Yirga Meiconnen.

Azeb is a charming woman in her late thirties. We converse in Icelandic, and we learn that she is originally from Addis Ababa, but has lived in Iceland for over three years. She says she learned her cooking skills from her mother, and that she met her husband (and restaurant co-owner Árni Magnús while working as an Au Pair in Reykjavík a few years back.

She tells us she enjoys running the restaurant and that they have been very busy since opening for business this June. "We import the spices and such from Ethiopia, but otherwise we use mostly use local ingredients," she replies when we ask if getting all the proper stuff for the Ethiopian dishes is hard on such a remote island. She laughs a lot during our conversation, and confirms our suspicion that Icelanders will often have trouble understanding that Ethiopian food is meant to be consumed without the use of forks or spoons. They'll get it, eventually.

Minilik will be open every day except Monday over the summer, but will likely only operate on weekends this winter. For more info call 846 9798.

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

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

Reykjavik
City Museum

Cash, Not Ash

EYJAFJALLAJÖKULL IS FINALLY MAKING SOMEONE SOME OF THE FORMER



While driving through the South of Iceland one's mind will inevitably wander to that whole Eyjafjallajökull eruption event of last April, which greatly affected many of the farmers in the areas one will drive through, as well as halting European air traffic for a while (get over it already). Signs of the eruption and its ash plume are still to be seen, and also every gas station and pylsa hut in the area is inevitably flogging vials of ash and Eyjafjallamadjadla t-shirts in an attempt to monetise.

Volcanic eruptions are powerful and awe inspiring and often incredibly de-

structive— and, as we've been finding out in Iceland lately, they can also bring out the entrepreneur in folks. Icelanders are often faced with making the best out of a bad situation (like their politicians), and thus the devastation caused by the Eyjafjallajökull eruption has inspired some of those who suffered from it to try and create something new out of it, so as to recoup some of the damages.

A case in point is the 'Eyjafjallajökull Erupts' Visitor Centre, which was created and is operated by the family that inhabits the close-by Þorvaldseyri farm (note: it is the farm under the giant ash plume in one of the most famous eruption photos from last year).

They got right to work after the eruption, opening up this exhibit on its one-year anniversary (on April 14 of this year).

Right by the Ring Road, the centre offers drivers-by and tourists the chance to experience last year's eruption through colourful graphics, photos and text that explains the local volcanic system and tells the story of Eyjafjallajökull 2010. The crux of the exhibit is likely the showing of a twenty-minute long documentary on the eruption and the resulting clean-up.

There is also a shop, where one can stock up on all sorts of eruption-related memorabilia as well as purchase goods

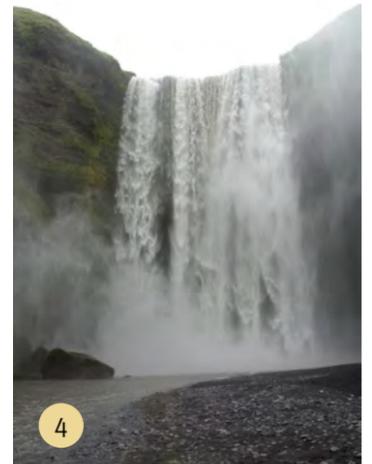
and produce from the Þorvaldseyri farm (they grow, among other things, barley and wheat, which is very rare in Iceland).

If you weren't there to witness the eruption first-hand, the visitor centre is likely a fair and efficient way to experience and learn about that truly grandiose event.

Admission 800 ISK, free for children under 12. The Eyjafjallajökull Erupts Visitor Centre is located right on Route 1, and is 140 km east of Reykjavík. Open from 09:00–18:00 from June–August, see www.icelandnerupts.is for further info.

Take A Hike On Some Hot Lava

REALLY, IT'LL BE FUN



While travelling in the south of Iceland, Skógar, right by The Ring Road, is a must-visit destination. The majestic waterfall Skógafoss is a sight to behold and is positively awe-inspiring in its sheer size and volume (it is also really loud, which is nice). A stairway up the mountain has been constructed next to the waterfall, and the short hike up there will provide splendid views of the fall and the surrounding scenery (seen from above, the herd of tourists cavorting around there is reduced to bevy of fluorescent dots, which is nice).

Many visitors to Skógar might not realise that it also marks the starting point of one of Iceland's most popular hikes, which takes you from Skógar through the Fimmvörðuháls mountain pass all the way to beautiful Þórsmörk. The well-marked path is 26 km long and can be done in a single day if one is packed lightly, but the Útivist travel association also operates a comfortable mountain hut on the way, which may be booked in advance for a more leisurely jaunt through the pass.

The hiking trail will take you over a newly formed lava field, which was created by the Fimmvörðuháls/Eyjafjallajökull eruption of 2010, and it is reportedly an interesting sensation to walk over the still-warm lava.

As we hiked the beginnings of the trail on our short stop at Skógar, we had to use all our willpower not to carry on the entire way. If you go there, you'll understand. And when you get to Þórsmörk, you'll know. You just will.

NOTE: Hiking the Fimmvörðuháls path should be done with extreme caution, and only after heavy research. If you plan on doing it, play it safe at all times, and make sure someone knows of your whereabouts and plans.

Young Money:

'RECENTLY FOUNDED' EGILSTAÐIR IS THE HUB THAT CONNECTS THE EAST OF ICELAND

The Eastfjords of Iceland are beautiful and fun to visit; with a rich history, a mild climate (it sometimes even gets 'hot' there during summer—'feels like 35°C') and heaps of natural beauty and majestic mountain ranges one could spend weeks there cavorting between fjords and running up steep mountain hills.

Established in 1947, Egilsstaðir is likely Iceland's youngest rural municipality. It lies inland, on the banks of lake Lagarfljót (where Nessie's cuz, Lagarfljótsormurinn, likes to hang out) and serves as a service hub for surrounding towns like Reyðarfjörður, Seyðisfjörður, Neskaupsstaður, etc. With its population of around 2500, this young town

is the largest municipality in the East and quite unique for its youth and lack of local history (even though the area it stands is rife with history).

You will stop there while in the East. It has a nice and large tourist centre (with free coffee!), a pool, a camping ground, a gas station, some museums and shops; everything you could ask for in small town Iceland.

There is a charm about Egilsstaðir's newness, and the fact that it connects you to some of the most beautiful and unique places in Iceland ensures that any serious tourist to Iceland will pay a visit. Stop there, even camp overnight there, but by all means move on to see the rest of the magnificent East.





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The Center of Puppet Arts is located in Historic Old town of Borgarnes, only one our drive from Reykjavik. Romantically situated in a bay overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, the Centre hosts a Café, a Theater featuring both multi-lingual and nonverbal performances, a Museum and a Gift Shop.



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A Viking-Style Dallas (And The Vikings' Boring Descendants)

A VISIT TO THE ICELANDIC SAGA CENTRE IN HVOLSVÖLLUR



The South of Iceland is very rightfully one of the country's more popular tourism destinations. The severely geothermally active region contains some of Iceland's most stunning landscapes as well as multiple sites of interest and natural wonders like glaciers, geysers and waterfalls. It is also conveniently close to Reykjavík and its international airport, enabling even those who are only in Iceland for a short jaunt to partake in some of its wonder.

While one could be forgiven for focusing strictly on the nature at hand, acquainting oneself with the local culture and history is also a worthwhile pursuit, especially when it has stories as fascinating and graphic as the South of Iceland does.

The Icelandic Saga Centre in Hvolsvöllur is an excellent option for those wishing to learn about Iceland's early settlers and some of its Sagas in a short amount of time. The centre's main exhibit revolves around the most famous of Iceland's Sagas, 'Brennu-Njáls Saga' ("Burnt Njal's Saga"), which is an epic tale of lust, vengeance, murder, manipulation and blood feud, all set in the era when Iceland was first being settled by tax-evading Norwegians.

Send your friends swimming

The exhibit is a fairly standard historical exhibit, with the traditional set-up. It is an ambitiously crafted one, and has a lot of information pertaining not only to the famous Saga and all its murders, but also to Iceland's early settlers' way of life and worldview (as imagined by modern scholars). It is divided into five parts, and starts off by setting the stage with a display devoted to the 'environment and zeitgeist' of Njála times, with maps of the Viking worldview, scale models of the types of buildings early settlers constructed and inhabited as well as samples of their weaponry and clothing.

While one looks upon models of the broadswords, cloaks and helmets purportedly donned by Njáll and his friends, unseen speakers blare soundscapes of battle, of the ocean and other noises that one might have heard in early Iceland at that time (the aural backdrop changes as you move through the exhibit, too). The items and illustrations are accompanied by text in Icelandic, German and English (there are also audio tours available in those languages) that gives several details and information and is quite well crafted (here is some advice: if you are the type of person that likes to read such details and immerse yourself in such exhibitions, send your impatient friends swimming or something).

A Viking Dallas

After setting the stage, the display

moves into Njála territory and details the epic saga and its characters, chapter through chapter. If you have never heard of Njála, you should definitely read up on the Saga, as it is a good one (if not the best one). With its betrayal, lust, murder and vengeance, it might even be called a Viking-age version of popular 1980s TV series Dallas.

After treading through all the plot-lines and learning about the characters of Njála, we found we had gleaned much knowledge and were nicely satisfied with the visit. While the exhibit cannot replace reading the book itself (an English translation is widely available for free online), it gives a nice insight into the Iceland of yore and definitely brings to life the fascinating tale of Njáll and the trouble that surrounded him.

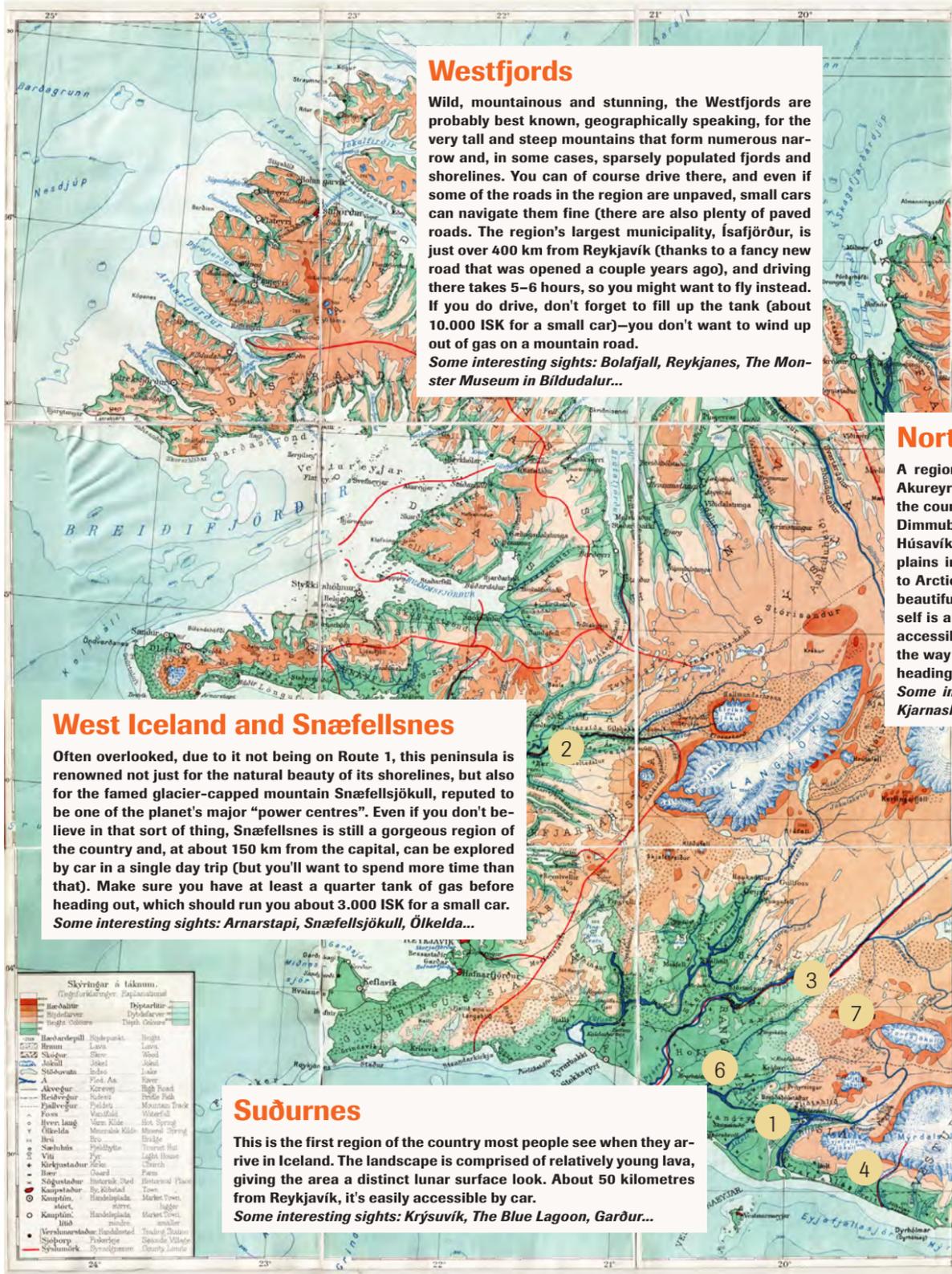
An exhibit you won't understand

After wandering through the exhibit, we went on to observe a miniature replica of a parliamentary session at Þingvellir around Iceland's time of settlement. We then were disappointed to learn no one was operating a restaurant in the building's Viking style dining room, but that disappointment quickly faded as we found yet another exhibit to view and wander through.

Although it has yet to be translated to English, Kaupfélagssýningin ("The Co-Op Exhibit," which is also housed in the centre), is a fun place to walk through and it has lots of interesting artefacts to examine (and if you have an Icelander with you, you can ask them to read you the signs. The Co-Ops were farmer founded and run cooperative companies that they used to trade their goods and where they purchased needful things and groceries (often the farmers would never see any money, they would deposit their wool or produce and credit any purchase to their account). Even though the Co-Op system is viewed less than positively in today's retrospect, it is an important part of Iceland's 20th century history.

The exhibit places focus on commerce and trade in the South of Iceland over the last hundred years, which of course involves the Co-Ops a lot. It's key attraction for non-Icelandic speakers (there are apparently plans underway to translate) is that it has all sorts of fascinating old machines: computers, mimeographs, typewriters, weighing machines and everything else needed to run a Co-Op (there is even a replica of an old Co-Op office). And since you already paid to get in to the museum, you might as well use the opportunity, see some cool stuff and learn what the Njáls Saga characters' boring descendants got up to over the last century.

The Icelandic Saga Centre is open every day from 09:00–18:00
Admittance is 750 ISK (free for under-16s)
www.njala.is



Westfjords

Wild, mountainous and stunning, the Westfjords are probably best known, geographically speaking, for the very tall and steep mountains that form numerous narrow and, in some cases, sparsely populated fjords and shorelines. You can of course drive there, and even if some of the roads in the region are unpaved, small cars can navigate them fine (there are also plenty of paved roads). The region's largest municipality, Ísafjörður, is just over 400 km from Reykjavík (thanks to a fancy new road that was opened a couple years ago), and driving there takes 5–6 hours, so you might want to fly instead. If you do drive, don't forget to fill up the tank (about 10,000 ISK for a small car)—you don't want to wind up out of gas on a mountain road.

Some interesting sights: Bolafjall, Reykjanes, The Monster Museum in Bíldudalur...

West Iceland and Snæfellsnes

Often overlooked, due to it not being on Route 1, this peninsula is renowned not just for the natural beauty of its shorelines, but also for the famed glacier-capped mountain Snæfellsjökull, reputed to be one of the planet's major "power centres". Even if you don't believe in that sort of thing, Snæfellsnes is still a gorgeous region of the country and, at about 150 km from the capital, can be explored by car in a single day trip (but you'll want to spend more time than that). Make sure you have at least a quarter tank of gas before heading out, which should run you about 3,000 ISK for a small car.

Some interesting sights: Arnarstapi, Snæfellsjökull, Ölkelda...

Suðurnes

This is the first region of the country most people see when they arrive in Iceland. The landscape is comprised of relatively young lava, giving the area a distinct lunar surface look. About 50 kilometres from Reykjavík, it's easily accessible by car.

Some interesting sights: Krýsvík, The Blue Lagoon, Gardur...

Burning Njáll Festival at The Icelandic Saga Centre

If you are all crazy about Njáls Saga, you would do well by visiting the Saga Centre this weekend, as they are hosting a Burning Njáll festival (Njálsbrennuháttíð) on site for two days. Scheduled events include staged Viking battle, Viking sports competitions, concerts, theatre, games for kids and adults of all ages and the epic climax: the re-enactment of Njáll's murder by fire, in a specially made hut that will be used as bonfire kindling throughout the night.

The programme starts Friday July 29 at 20:30 with a concert by folk music group KORKA and continues through the weekend. Full programme available at www.njala.is

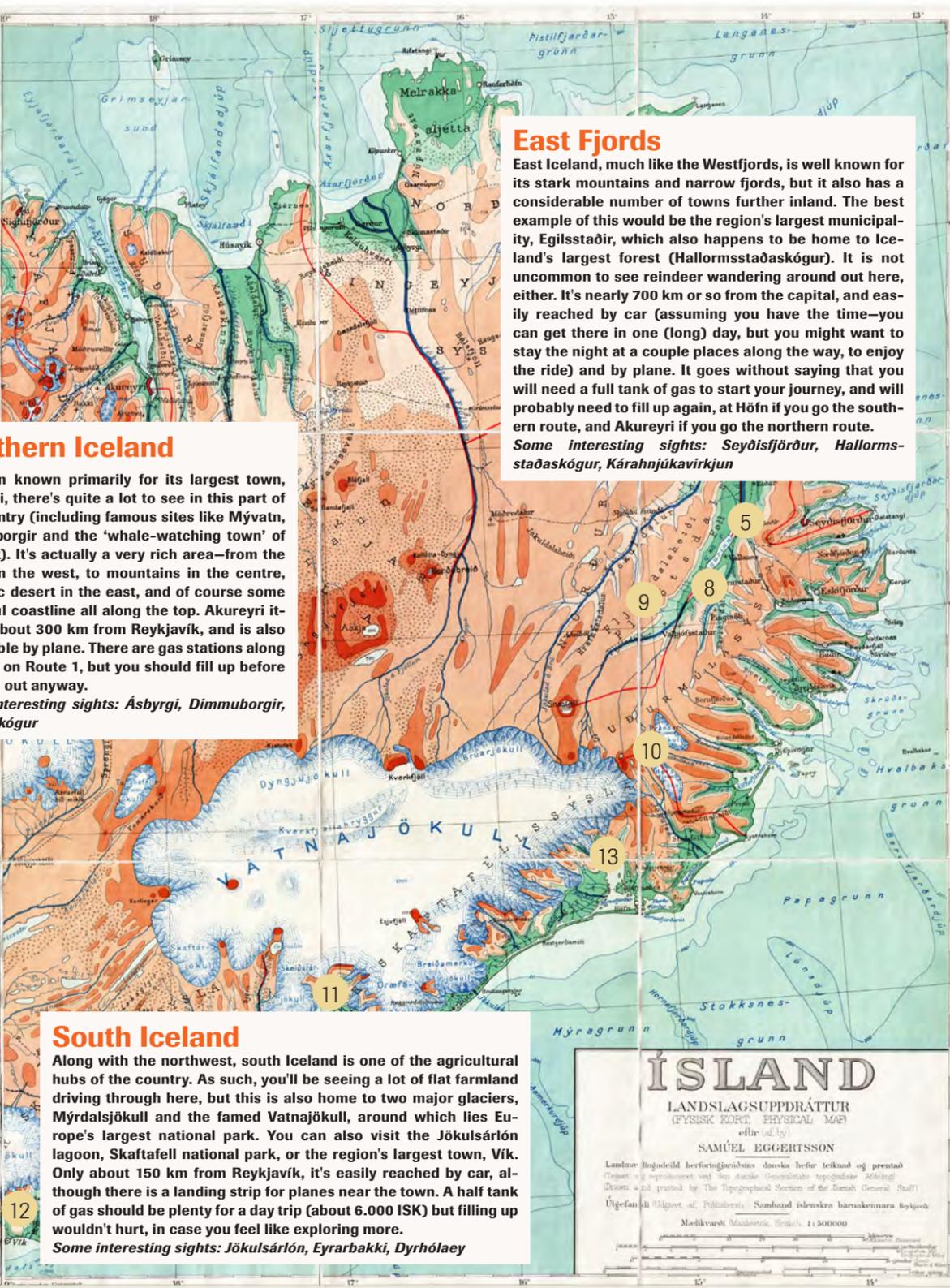


Distance from Reykjavík: ca. 110 km

Mt. Hekla



The dignified and scenic 40 km long stratovolcano Hekla is one of Iceland's most famous landmarks, towering above the Þjórsárdalur valley. Hekla is among the world's most active volcanoes. The volcano has erupted five times in the 20th century, most recently in February 2000. Early settlers in Iceland understandably feared this frightening fire-spouting mountain and believed Hekla to be the gateway to Hell. In 2007, a new geo-historical museum, the Hekla Centre, opened at the farm Leirubakki, situated at the foot of the mountain. The Hekla Center houses a contemporary, multimedia exhibition on Mount Hekla, its history, and its influence on human life in Iceland from the time of the island's settlement until now. The exhibition emphasizes the influence of the volcano on the inhabited areas close to it, that is, the districts of Landsveit, Holt, and Rangárvellir. The history of these districts is traced and the story of people's struggles with sandstorms and eruptions told.



East Fjords

East Iceland, much like the Westfjords, is well known for its stark mountains and narrow fjords, but it also has a considerable number of towns further inland. The best example of this would be the region's largest municipality, Egilsstaðir, which also happens to be home to Iceland's largest forest (Hallormsstaðaskógur). It is not uncommon to see reindeer wandering around out here, either. It's nearly 700 km or so from the capital, and easily reached by car (assuming you have the time—you can get there in one (long) day, but you might want to stay the night at a couple places along the way, to enjoy the ride) and by plane. It goes without saying that you will need a full tank of gas to start your journey, and will probably need to fill up again, at Höfn if you go the southern route, and Akureyri if you go the northern route. *Some interesting sights: Seyðisfjörður, Hallormsstaðaskógur, Kárahnjúkavirkjun*

North Iceland

North Iceland is known primarily for its largest town, Akureyri, but there's quite a lot to see in this part of the country (including famous sites like Mývatn, Dimmuborgir and the 'whale-watching town' of Húsavík). It's actually a very rich area—from the mountains in the west, to mountains in the centre, to a volcanic desert in the east, and of course some of the most beautiful coastline all along the top. Akureyri is about 300 km from Reykjavík, and is also easily reached by plane. There are gas stations along Route 1, but you should fill up before you get out anyway. *Some interesting sights: Ásbyrgi, Dimmuborgir, Dimmuborgirskógur*

South Iceland

Along with the northwest, south Iceland is one of the agricultural hubs of the country. As such, you'll be seeing a lot of flat farmland driving through here, but this is also home to two major glaciers, Mýrdalsjökull and the famed Vatnajökull, around which lies Europe's largest national park. You can also visit the Jökulsárlón lagoon, Skafafell national park, or the region's largest town, Vík. Only about 150 km from Reykjavík, it's easily reached by car, although there is a landing strip for planes near the town. A half tank of gas should be plenty for a day trip (about 6.000 ISK) but filling up wouldn't hurt, in case you feel like exploring more. *Some interesting sights: Jökulsárlón, Eyrbakkí, Dyrhólaey*

Map courtesy of Landmælingar Íslands - Map from 1928

Hallormsstaðaskógur Is Iceland's Only Largest Forest

YOU SHOULD CAMP OUT THERE, IT'S WONDERFUL!



You've heard that joke, right? The one about getting lost in an Icelandic forest and standing up to find your way out? Well, it pains us to admit it but that joke rings pretty true. However, there is a forest in Iceland where, if one should get lost, merely standing up will not help.

We are of course referring to Hallormsstaðaskógur, the 1854 hectare forest that lies for 15 kilometres along the banks of lake Lagarfljót. It is a beautiful forest, with numerous large trees and some endearing scents to be smelled, and moving sights to be seen.

According to an informational sign we found there, Hallormsstaðaskógur is comprised of 70% native birch trees and 30% imported trees of various varieties (there are many different trees to be found—there is even an arboretum on the premises). It was protected by law in 1899 and has grown considerably since through local efforts and sheer force of will.

As it lies on the banks of Lagarfljót, there are beaches at the edge of the forest, where one can rent boats or simply frolic in the water (it can get quite warm there, too). Hallormsstaðaskógur offers several other activities to get up to whilst there, aside from the expected hikes in the forest and bird-watching. For instance, you can rent a horse and go horseback riding! In the forest! It's like something out of Lord of the Rings, it is!

There are two campsites located in the forest, the more famous of the two being Atlavík, where Ringo Starr once reportedly mixed Coke with his fancy cognac. But both are very nice, and a favourite of travelling Icelanders. Why not pay a visit and see why they (and Ringo) like it so much (assuming Ringo liked it).

Hallormsstaðaskógur is 25 kilometres south of Egilsstaðir. You should go there if you're ever in the area.

Glaciers, Catholics And German Architecture

SKRIÐUKLAUSTUR IS WORTH A VISIT

A twenty-five minute drive out of Egilsstaðir along Lagarfljót lake will take you to Skriðuklaustur, which is a unique destination for those travelling the East. The ravishing environment will provide the wide-eyed traveller with plenty to look at, while those who wish to learn about local history will have a field day in the area.

Skriðuklaustur is the site of an old manor farm, and it is mentioned in the Icelandic Sagas. It was the site of Iceland's last built catholic monastery (founded in 1493), which operated a hospital, a children's school and a church in its heyday. Later, the area became the adopted home of once-legendary Icelandic author Gunnar Gunnarsson, who in 1939 built himself and his wife quite an impressive house which was designed by German architect Fritz Höger.

The building is quite unique by Icelandic standards and is a nice site to visit. Skriðuklaustur is now a cultural and research centre. It houses an exhibit devoted to Gunnar and his life work, and also Kaffi Klaustur, a restaurant that specialises in delicacies made out of local materials, like the area's berries and mushrooms—and its reindeer meat.

Skriðuklaustur is also the site of an ongoing archaeological excavation. Guided tours of the site are given every



day at 13:30, 14:30, 15:30 and 16:30. The tours cost 300 ISK for adults, but are free for children.

Vatnajökull National Park is also represented at Skriðuklaustur, in the

form of the highly stylised Snæfellsstofa Visitors Centre, which opened in June of 2010 and has been serving delicious glacial information to tourists as well as hosting exhibits on the area.

Kverkfjöll and Snæfell are the most renowned destinations within the east territory of Vatnajökull National Park. Both are located in the highlands north of Vatnajökull and a 4x4 vehicle is re-

quired to get there. Don't have a 4x4 vehicle? There's always the centre!

www.skriduklaustur.is
www.vjv.is

Distance from Reykjavík: ca. 450 km

Lónsöræfi

10



Set right on the eastern border with the huge and unquestionably magical Vatnajökull glacier (the largest glacier in Europe), the obscure Lónsöræfi is a vast volcanic preservation area of colourful hills, broad rivers, gushing waterfalls, and lush vegetation that is unique for Iceland. The area is surrounded by sharp and snowy peaks on all sides, and is often trekked by herds of reindeer. For visitors who dare the unpopular and rugged terrain, Lónsöræfi offers several cottages for accommodation. Also nearby is Skafafell, a cool abandoned farm-campsite right on the edge of Lónsöræfi.



Black Ice, Black Falls, Hyper-Colourful Experience

SKAFTAFELL IS STILL AN AWESOME PLACE TO VISIT



11

Standing around in the Skaftafell Visitors Centre during midday is more akin to being in a crowded shopping mall than at a nature reserve. It's busy. Real busy. Don't let that scare you off however—the busloads of tourists are all on their way to somewhere, and the Skaftafell region is large and bountiful enough to satisfy everyone.

The Skaftafell Visitors Centre is an offshoot of Vatnajökull National Park (Skaftafell used to be its own National Park, called Skaftafell National Park, until it was united with Vatnajökull National Park in 2008). It is in direct view of Iceland's highest peak, Hvannadalshnjúkur (2119 m) and encompasses glacier-tongues Skeiðarárjökull and Skaftafellsjökull, glacial rivers, lagoons, waterfalls and several other stunning sights and places to visit. It

has been a local favourite for decades, and is now, as we learned, really popular with visitors to Iceland.

Stamps and Svartifoss

Inside the centre, we met park ranger Auður Hafstað, who took time off from directing visitors to Svartifoss and selling them stamps to tell us a little bit about life as a park ranger. "The job involves welcoming tourists and travellers, and giving them any information they need. We do various acts of maintenance on the park and its facilities,

and then we lead guided walks with a geological theme twice a day, every day—in Icelandic at 11 in the morning and then in English at five in the afternoon."

"This is my second summer here," she continues, "I was here in the summer of 2001 and I've returned now, ten years later. I've been here all summer and I can tell you, it doesn't get boring—even though we'll often get the same question a thousand times a day. July brings 3500–4000 visitors to the park each day, and usually 2000 of those stop by at the information centre. Most of those wish to know how to get to Svartifoss, and giving directions to there every two minutes is not without its charm, actually. It's no wonder they want to go there, though it is a fascinating waterfall surrounded by basalt columns, and the walk there leads you by two other waterfalls, Magnúsarfoss and Hundarfoss, that are also very beautiful. I definitely understand the appeal and am happy to facilitate people visiting it."

While removed from friends and family, Auður says the life of a park ranger is far from tedious. "Honestly, I love it here. The best bit is probably just being so close at all times to nature's magnificent powers. All these contrasts and opposites: breathtaking beauty that goes with destructive and dangerous forces. Just being here, the land formed by glaciers and fire and is still in formation. I try and go on short trips or hikes every day if I can. Every day, I wake up excited."

Receding glaciers

-Has a lot changed in the ten years since

you last were park ranger in Skaftafell? "Yes, I couldn't believe how much the glaciers, Svínafellsjökull, Skaftafellsjökull and Skeiðarárjökull, have receded in that decade. They are receding at an astronomical speed—Skeiðarárjökull has all but disappeared, and Skaftafellsjökull has receded a few hundred metres in those ten years and left a huge lagoon that wasn't there the last time I was. It's exciting really, and nothing to fear, as these glaciers have grown and shrunk through the ages. It's the forces of nature. We are seeing new land being formed, and one can't help but be excited about what the receding glaciers will reveal.

-Has the amount of visitors increased a lot? Are you worried that these large groups of travellers might damage the local environment?

"We have a lot more tourists now than ten years ago, that's for sure! But as long as everyone makes sure to follow our rules and guidelines, such as staying in the marked path and making sure they don't litter, we should be good. We are constantly working on improving and fixing the paths here, and are fortunate enough to enjoy the assistance of groups of volunteers that come from all over the world to help preserve the region."

Auður was at this instance accosted by a woman who wanted to buy stamps to Europe before hiking to Svartifoss, so we left her to her devices. Be sure to say hi if you drop by. And ask her how to get to Svartifoss.

www.vjp.is
Tel: +354 4708300
skaftafell@vjp.is

If You Worship Nature, Svartifoss Will Be Your Altar

Park ranger Auður Hafstað jokingly told us that the biggest part of her job is telling tourists how to get to the Svartifoss waterfall ("Black Falls"). We all shared a good laugh at that, but when we reached Svartifoss after a short hike (as per Auður's instructions) we instantly understood why all these travellers were so excited to get there.

Describing Svartifoss and its surroundings as 'a natural cathedral' is likely a travel writing cliché by now, but that doesn't make the description any less true. After a 45-minute hike from the information centre that takes you past two waterfalls (Hundarfoss and Magnúsarfoss—those are already sort of stunning), one reaches Svartifoss and the only suitable reaction is to let ones

jaw drop and gasp at the wonder of it all.

Enveloped by thick, black, hexagonal basalt columns, the waterfall itself spews forth water from 12 metres up high right at the centre of the stacked basalt columns, that align in sort of a dome or semicircle. One is constantly faced with the question: do I look at the majestic falling water or do I look at the majestic basalt columns and their formation. It's like being religious must feel.

One can stand there a long time, looking and listening.

And one will probably go there again, later.



11

Adventure tours Scheduled flights Air charter services

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Activity Adventure

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This tour takes you from Reykjavík to the island of Heimaey in the Westman Islands archipelago.



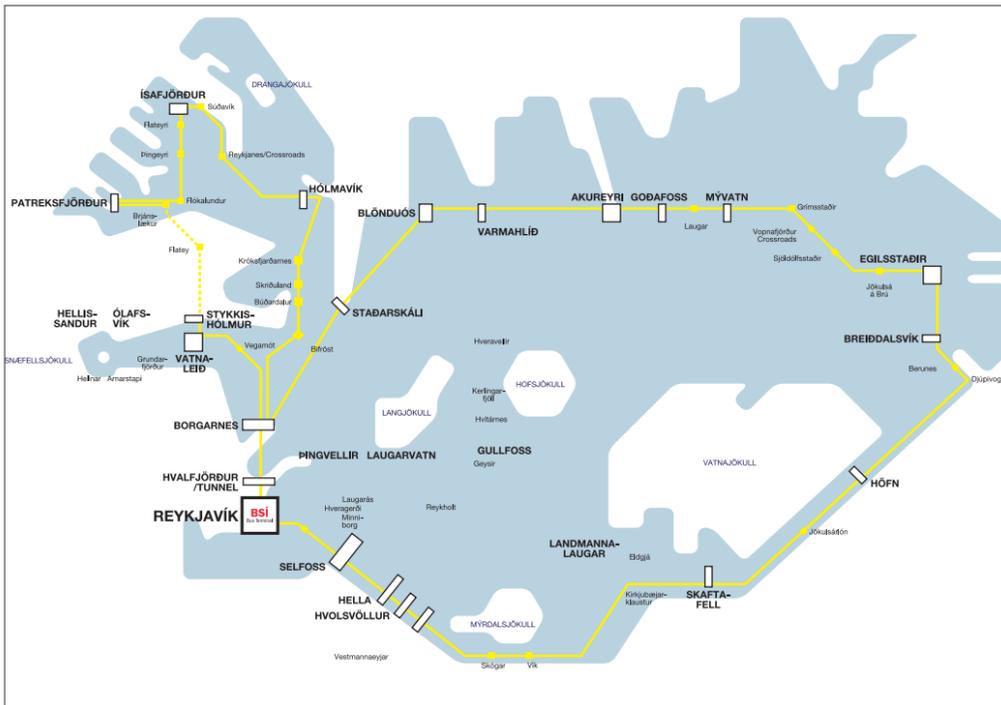
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The Full Circle and the Westfjords Passport is the same as the Full Circle Passport with the addition of the Breiðafjörður area and the Westfjords of Iceland. You will take a ferry across the beautiful Breiðafjörður. The mostly shallow fjord is dotted with more than 3000 islands of all sizes and shapes, the most famous of which is the second largest; Flatey. The Westfjords are a unique part of Iceland. Mostly narrow with steep

mountain sides down to the ocean. The population has been dwindling the last decades mostly because of how isolated the area is during the winter. But it is this isolation that makes the area so magical. The calm fjords can make even the most restless of people stoic. This being said, there is no shortage of life and excitement in the villages along the coast of the Westfjords during the summer. Festivals of all sorts, markets and exhibitions take place every week. Last and not least this passport connects with tours to the amazing Hornstrandir; once inhabited by farmers and fishermen but now deserted, a triumph of nature.

of which is the second largest; Flatey. The Westfjords are a unique part of Iceland. Mostly narrow with steep



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The Bridge Is Back



12

As you might have heard, the bridge over the glacial river Múlakvísl (which comes off Mýrdalsjökull glacier) was swept away in a jökulhlaup (“glacial run” – also plz factcheck the term and following date) that started on July 8, most likely by a small eruption under the glacier. A vital link on The Ring Road (Route 1), the bridge’s demise was devastating news for many inhabitants east of the river that depend on the summer tourism boom for sustenance (and Route 1 for mobility).

(“Jökulhlaup” is a term to describe what happens when water that has been trapped under a glacier is suddenly released from underneath it due to pressure or other factors, and sweeps

down to the ocean in a big and very powerful flood).

The Icelandic Road Administration immediately announced plans to rebuild the bridge, saying the construction might take up to three weeks (which caused a stir in the tourism community). However, they managed to build a nice temporary bridge in less than a week, which is nothing short of miraculous given the circumstances and notice.

The bridge opened on July 16 and has since transported busloads of tourists to various breathtaking destinations in the Southeast and beyond. Nearing the Múlakvísl area on Route 1 in our fancy Happy Camper, we started

noticing various signs of recent glacial flooding. Former sheep-grazing pastures were afloat with silt and mud. There was wreckage. When we reached the temporary bridge over the river, however, we were stunned. Not only was the new bridge sturdy and trusty looking—a feat of modern engineering and construction—we could still see parts of the old bridge lying in the riverbed, with the road markers still intact. It points out to the ocean, and goes on for quite a bit—a sort of road to nowhere, from nowhere, if you will.

It truly is a sight to behold, so if you are driving in the area do slow down and have a look.

Your Own Private Jökulsárlón

THE GOOD PEOPLE OF HOFFELL HAVE A THING OR TWO TO SHOW YOU

The farm Hoffell stands 25 kilometres from the town of Höfn in Hornafjörður (where you go to dine some of the finest langoustine available to man). At the edges of Hoffell’s farmland lies the Hoffellsjökull glacier-touge, which is an outlet of Vatnajökull (and thus part of the Vatnajökull National Park). It is a fine place to visit, and here’s why.

The farmers at Hoffell, Þrúðmar Þrúðmarsson and his wife Ingibjörg Ævarr, have been increasingly turning from their farmwork to house and hosts tourists, with accommodation and various unique activities. Þrúðmar was born on the farm sometime in the last century, and his parents still live on the land. He shows us around the lot, telling us that they now offer fourteen rooms and can house up to thirty people. “Breakfast is always included,” he proudly stresses. “My wife bakes bread in the morning and brings it to the guests, who have their own kitchen. Then people get up and enjoy a full breakfast at their own convenience.”

Þrúðmar takes us to the geothermal hot pots he built close by the farm (anyone can go there, whether they’re staying at the farm or not, he simply asks guests leave a 350 ISK donation for maintenance of the changing rooms if they can). “We made a bore-hole here and discovered that 502 metres deep the water was 60°C hot. So of course we built hot pots here, five of them. I



13

clean them every night, and there’s no chlorine, it flows constantly. The water has something special to it, too. Those who suffer from psoriasis often make trips here to bathe; it helps their skin like at the Blue Lagoon.”

We then move on to his fleet of ATVs. “I have been running ATV tours here since last year. We drive by the mountain and stop by the large gully and various points of note. Then we end up at the glacier lagoon by Hoffellsjökull before heading back.”

We drive the path Þrúðmar’s ATV tours go, in a regular jeep. The scenery is wondrous and we start wishing we could go on one of his tours. Then we arrive at Hoffellsjökull glacier and its lagoon which has been created over the last few decades as the glacier has receded rapidly, and we get even more depressed that we don’t have time to enjoy

the ride.

The lagoon is like a smaller version of Jökulsárlón, with fewer icebergs of course, but also with fewer tourists and tour operators and loud boats. In the fog that had rolled down the hills and down the glacier, it was positively serene. Like a private show of nature. Then Þrúðmar brought out his pedal boats: “I bought these pedal boats last year and have been giving tours on them. I like to take people between the icebergs and make them go silent. You can hear the ice cracking, liquid flowing. It’s like nothing else.”

We drove back for a quick dip in the hot pot, and thought about coming back sometime.

Hoffell operate tours and accommodation year-round. More information on www.glacier-world.is

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List of licenced Tour Operators and Travel Agencies on: visiticeland.com

OUTSIDE RVK

IN JULY & AUGUST

OUTSIDE MUSIC

30 SAT

1862 Nordic Bistro, Akureyri

13:00 Live Music

Græni Hatturinn, Akureyri

22:00 Hjálmar

Miðgarður, Varmahlíð

20:30 Óperutófrar, 3000 ISK

Sláturhúsið, Egilsstaðir

16:00 Auxpan, Helgi Örn, Konrad Korabiewski & Litten

31 SUN

Akureyri Church, Akureyri

17:00 Summer concert

Græni Hatturinn, Akureyri

23:00 Bravó

1 MON

Herðubreið, Seyðisfjörður

16:00 Concert and dance in the spirit of old Icelandic 50's music, 1000 ISK

6 SAT

1862 Nordic Bistro, Akureyri

13:00 Live Music

Blúskjallarinn, Neskaupstaður

21:00 Auxpan, Helgi Örn, Konrad Korabiewski & Litten

11 THU

Græni Hatturinn, Akureyri

21:00 Valdimar

OUTSIDE ART OPENINGS

Akureyri

'Ein með öllu' Festival

July 29

This annual event takes place the weekend before the first Monday in August. The line-up is diverse and a great number of Icelandic bands will perform alongside other artists, happenings and entertainment.

Runs until July 31

Skafftelli, Seyðisfjörður

Gardenparty - The Mountain

Woman Fellowship

July 31

Performances, music, snacks and sauna.

OUTSIDE ONGOING ART

Akureyri

Summer Festival of the Arts

Akureyri and north Iceland, Mid-June until end of August. Concerts, visual arts etc.

Runs until August 28

Akureyri Art Museum, Akureyri

Call Home

The exhibition includes paintings, sculptures, embroidery, drawings, models, souvenirs, puppets, toys and tools, as well as interesting library.

Runs until August 21

Borgarfjörður Museum, Borganes

Iceland in the 20th century

A beautiful exhibit, showing life and surroundings of the people in Iceland, especially children, in the 20th century. Open every day from 13:00 to 18:00.

Runs until September 1

Búrfell Plant, Þjórsárdalur

Geothermal Energy Exhibit

An interactive exhibit about geothermal

Flóra, Akureyri

Local fact 4

Video-installation by artist Arna Valsdóttir.

Runs until August 4

Gallerí Lækjarkoti, Borgarbyggð

Collection of watercolors, acrylics, photographs and video works by women

artists Asa Ólafsdóttir, Bryndis Jonsdóttir, Kristin Geirsdóttir & Magdalena Margrét Kjartansdóttir

Opened all summer Thursday to Sunday

Gamli Baukur, Húsavík

15:30 Comedy show about Iceland

Everyday

Gerðarsafn, Kópavogur

Fellow Icelanders

Two installations by Árni Páll Jóhannsson and Finnogi Pétursson

Runs until July 31

Gljúfrasteinn - Laxness Museum, Mosfellsbær

The home of Halldór Laxness, Iceland's beloved writer who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1955. Open 09:00-17:00 daily

On permanent view

The Ghost Centre, Stokkseyri

Night at the Ghost Museum

Feel like a scary night in the Fisherman's hut inside the Ghost Centre? Only for brave people!

Ghosts and spirits of the South

Guided tour for groups of ten people or more through the lowlands south of Selfoss where many ghosts, spirits and other spiritual beings live

Hafnarborg, Hafnarfjörður

Ingenuity

Einar Thorsteinn Asgeirsson's ideas of design stem from his conviction that ingenuity, can build a better world.

Runs until August 14

Collection exhibition

The collection includes works by contemporary artists from early 20th century which explores Icelandic art history, ranging from important works by the considered pioneers of Icelandic art to the more experimental art of today.

Runs until August 14

Hlaðan, Vogum á Vatnsleysuströnd

Spiritual cocoon

Sound installation by Kira Kira & Graham Keegan.

Runs until August 13

Hveragerði

Images of Thingvellir

The exhibition deals with the various manifestations of Thingvellir in various art, design, cartography, photography, travel books and media of the day.

Runs until August 21

The Icelandic Settlement Centre, Borganes

The Settlement Exhibition

Tells the story of Iceland's settlement by Viking sailors who left Norway and settled in Iceland

On permanent view

The Egils Saga Exhibition

The exhibition concentrates one of Iceland's famous most famous Vikings and poets, Egil Skallagrímsson

On permanent view

Ketilhúsið, Akureyri

Exhibition by artists Jóhanna Friðfinnsdóttir, ceramic, & Dröfn Friðfinnsdóttir, graphics

Runs until August 7

LÁ Art, Hvergerði

Images of Þingvellir from various artists.

Runs until August 21

Mjólkurbúðin, Akureyri

Nostalgia Tourist

Ceramic works by Guðrún Ólafsdóttir

and photographs by Brand Ólafsson

Until July 31

Old herring factory, Djúpvík

Pictures - And their sounds

Combination of photographs and sounds by Claus Sterneck

Runs until August 31

200+ pictures

Collection of 200 pictures taken in Iceland by Claus Sterneck

Runs until August 31

Pompei of the North, Westman Islands

Excavations project at the site of 1973 volcanic eruption on the island of Heimaey

On permanent view

Reykjanes Art Museum, Reykjanesbær

On permanent view

Safnasafnið, Akureyri

Exhibition by artists Guðrún Hrönn Ragnarsdóttir, Sólvéig Aðalsteinsdóttir & Þóra Sigurðardóttir

Runs until September 4

Safnahús Museum, Westman Islands

This museum has mounted birds & fish, an aquarium, as well as a variety of rocks and minerals on display

On permanent view

Skafftelli, Seyðisfjörður

The Narrative Collection

A collection of narratives from inhabitants of Seyðisfjörður

Runs until August 13

Sláturhúsið, Egilsstaðir

Seasons (Vertíð)

Music, art and stage art.

Runs until August 13

If you can't get it in Kaupfélag then you don't need it

A look at Sláturhús history

Runs until August 21

VÍKING

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Sun. 31. júl. Bravó
Fri. 5. aug. Odinn Vald Tribute Concert
Sat. 6. aug. Odinn Vald Tribute Concert
Thu. 11. aug. Valdimar
Fri. 12. aug. Dúndurfréttir
Sat. 13. aug. Gylfi, Rúnar & Megas
Thu. 1. sep. Mezzoforte

THE GREEN HAT
AKUREYRI

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

Outside Reykjavík | Venue finder

Keflavík

Suðsúðvestur
www.sudsudvestur.is
Hafnargata 22
230 Reykjanesbær
421-2225

Borganes

The Icelandic Settlement Centre
www.landnam.is
Brákarbraut 13-15
310 Borganes
437-1600

Mývatn

Mývatnsstofa
Hraunveggi 8
660 Mývatn
464-4390
www.visitmyvatn.is

Stykkishólmur

Vatnasafnið / Library of Water
www.libraryofwater.is

Akureyri

Akureyri Art Museum
www listasafn.akureyri.is
Kaupvangsstræti 12
600 Akureyri
461 2610

Græni Hatturinn

Hafnarstræti 96
600 Akureyri
461-4646

Kunstraum Wohnraum

Ásabyggð 2
600 Akureyri

Egilsstaðir

Sláturhúsið
www.slaturhusid.is
Kaupvangi 7
700 Egilsstaðir
470-0692

Seyðisfjörður

Skafftelli
www.skafftelli.is
Austurvegur 42
710 Seyðisfjörður
472-1632

Hveragerði

LÁ Art
www listasafnamesinga.is
Austurmörk 21
210 Hveragerði
483-1727

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Akraneskaupstaður