



The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE



Issue 13 × 2013

August 30 - September 12

www.grapevine.is

YOUR FREE COPY > THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO LIFE, TRAVEL & ENTERTAINMENT IN ICELAND

THEATRE

Faking orgasms and more....

HISTORY

It's a bird...it's a plane... it's a Graf Zeppelin!

POLITICS

Let's talk about whaling, AGAIN

ART

Come for the glaciers, stay for the video art

TRAVEL

Hanging out on The Arctic Circle

Emiliana Torrini

Her music,
her lyrics,
her life and times



Complete Reykjavík Listings

Lots of cool events

Download the FREE Grapevine Appy Hour app!
Every happy hour in town in your pocket.
Available on the App store and on Android Market.



Editorial | Anna Andersen

HELLO, ANYBODY HOME?

Anna's 30th Editorial



In our last issue we ran a story that stirred up a lot of attention on our site and in the Icelandic media. It was called "Twenty Thousand ISK Gets You An Illegal Strip Dance," and recounted the story of how we discovered this to be the case at a club in downtown Reykjavík.

In short, we went to a champagne club called VIP on Austurstræti, asked to see their 'menu', purchased something called "15 minutes of private time" for 20,000 ISK, followed

one of their female employees upstairs to a booth and—five minutes later, received a nude strip dance.

It has been illegal in Iceland since 2010 for businesses to promote or in any way profit from the nudity of staff or others present. Yet with the opening of two new champagne clubs in the city this summer, there has been some discussion in the media about whether men are only frequenting these clubs in order to buy expensive bottles of champagne and have pleasant conversations with the staff.

Prior to the publication of our piece, one of Iceland's main dailies sent a couple of journalists to investigate these clubs, but the story it ran amounted to little more than 'he said/she said' speculation. It also resulted in one of the club's lawyers threatening them with a defamation suit.

While it was refreshing to see evidence of Icelandic journalists leaving their desks to work on a story rather than just making calls for re-

action quotes to a press release, it seems their efforts fell short for one reason or the other.

Why did it take a low-budget tourist rag like The Reykjavík Grapevine to bring forth little more than the cold hard facts? Is there any such thing as real investigative journalism in Iceland?

According to the report delivered to parliament by the Special Investigation Commission following Iceland's financial meltdown in 2008, Iceland's media largely failed to fulfill its duty as the so-called fourth estate as our banks grew to ten times the country's GDP.

Now, five years later, it seems to me that the media is still in pretty lousy shape. This may be one small example, but it points to a bigger problem that needs to be discussed (see also "So What's This Censorship Of Icelandic State Media I Keep Hearing About?" on page 8).

TRACK OF THE ISSUE



The Foghorns – "Ain't I A Man"

Download NOW at www.grapevine.is

After playing for eleven years under The Foghorns name—including three years in Iceland—and 20,000 miles of touring with an Icelandic rhythm section, former Grapevine editor Bart Cameron has his first successful American single. A protest song. With a lot of bass clarinet. And a swear.

TOURIST OF THE YEAR?

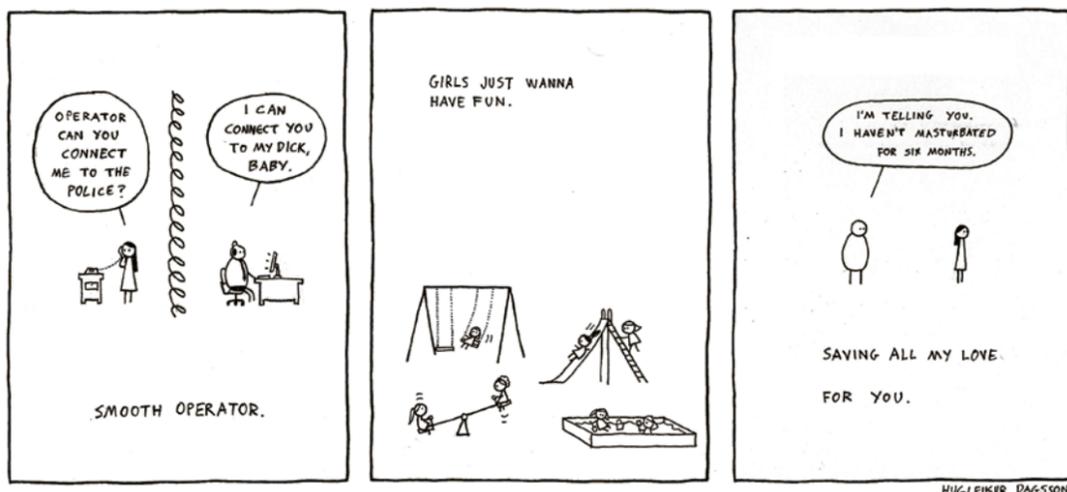


Like Eric & Pavel Trekell from the UK:

"Pavel and I would love to be selected as Tourist(s) of the Year because Iceland will be forever special to us as the country in which we were married, on August 14, 2013. As our trip to Iceland to be married was short, we'd love to return for a longer honeymoon – some camping, hiking, and exploring more of the amazing beauty of your wonderful, welcoming country!"

As all of you surely know by now, we're running a pretty amazing contest to find the TOURIST OF THE YEAR where one lucky person will win a trip to Iceland courtesy of Icelandair, Inspired by Iceland and yours truly! Now that the summer has hit its peak and tourism is at critical mass, we've gotten some really cool submissions in from readers who may be our contest winner.

But don't stress! The contest is far from over! If you think you should be our lucky winner, head on over to touristoftheyear.is and submit your tale! GOOD LUCK!



Hafnarstræti 15, 101 Reykjavík
www.grapevine.is
grapevine@grapevine.is
 Published by Fróken ehf.
www.froken.is
 Member of the Icelandic Travel Industry Association
www.saf.is
 Printed by Landsprent ehf. in 25,000 copies.

Editor In Chief:
 Haukur S Magnússon / haukur@grapevine.is

Editor:
 Anna Andersen / anna@grapevine.is

Editorial:
 +354 540 3600 / editor@grapevine.is

Advertising:
 +354 540 3605 / ads@grapevine.is
 +354 40 3610

Publisher:
 Hilmar Steinn Grétarsson / hilmar@grapevine.is
 +354 540 3601 / publisher@grapevine.is

Contributing Writers:

Arit John
 Atli Bollason
 Carol Devine
 Davíð Roach Gunnarsson
 Helgi Hrafn Guðmundsson
 Jacqueline Breen
 Kári Tulinius
 Lawrence Millman
 Óli Dóri
 Snorri Páll Jónsson Úlfhildarson
 Vera Illugadóttir

Journalist & Listings editor:
 Rebecca Louder / rebecca@grapevine.is

Journalist:
 Ingibjörg Rósa Björnsdóttir / ingibjorg@grapevine.is

Editorial Interns:
 Tómas Gabriel Benjamin / gabriel@grapevine.is
 Adrienne Blaine / adrienne@grapevine.is
 Kaisu Nevasalmi / kaisu@grapevine.is

Art Director
 Hörður Kristbjörnsson / hordur@dodlur.is

Design:
 Hrefna Sigurðardóttir / hrefna@dodlur.is

Photographers:

Alisa Kalyanova / www.alisakalyanova.com
 Magnús Anderssen / www.magnusanderssen.co
 Nanna Dis / www.nannadis.com

Sales Director:
 Aðalsteinn Jörundsson / adalsteinn@grapevine.is
 Helgi Þór Harðarson / helgi@grapevine.is

Distribution manager:
distribution@grapevine.is

Proofreader:
 Jim Rice

Listings:
listings@grapevine.is

Submissions inquiries:
editor@grapevine.is

Subscription inquiries:
 +354 540 3605 / subscribe@grapevine.is

General inquiries:
grapevine@grapevine.is

Founders:
 Hilmar Steinn Grétarsson,
 Hörður Kristbjörnsson,
 Jón Trausti Sigurðarson,

Oddur Óskar Kjartansson,
 Valur Gunnarsson

The Reykjavík Grapevine is published 18 times a year by Fróken ltd. Monthly from November through April, and fortnightly from May to October. Nothing in this magazine may be reproduced in whole or in part without the written permission of the publishers. The Reykjavík Grapevine is distributed around Reykjavík, Akureyri, Egilsstaðir, Seyðisfjörður, Borgarnes, Keflavík, Ísafjörður and at key locations along road #1, and all major tourist attractions and tourist information centres in the country.

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



On the cover: Emiliana Torrini
Photographer: Ari Magg
www.arimagg.com
Makeup: Frida María using MAC
Cosmetics, Hair: Frida María using Label.m
Styled by: Auður Karitas Ásgeirsdóttir
Assistant: Axel Sigurðarson
Special thanks: KEX Hostel

Be in your element

The perfect rest stop between Thingvellir and Geysir
 Open everyday 11-21
 Make sure your Golden Circle tour completes the geothermal experience

GEOTHERMAL STEAM ROOMS

THERMAL BATHS

SAUNA

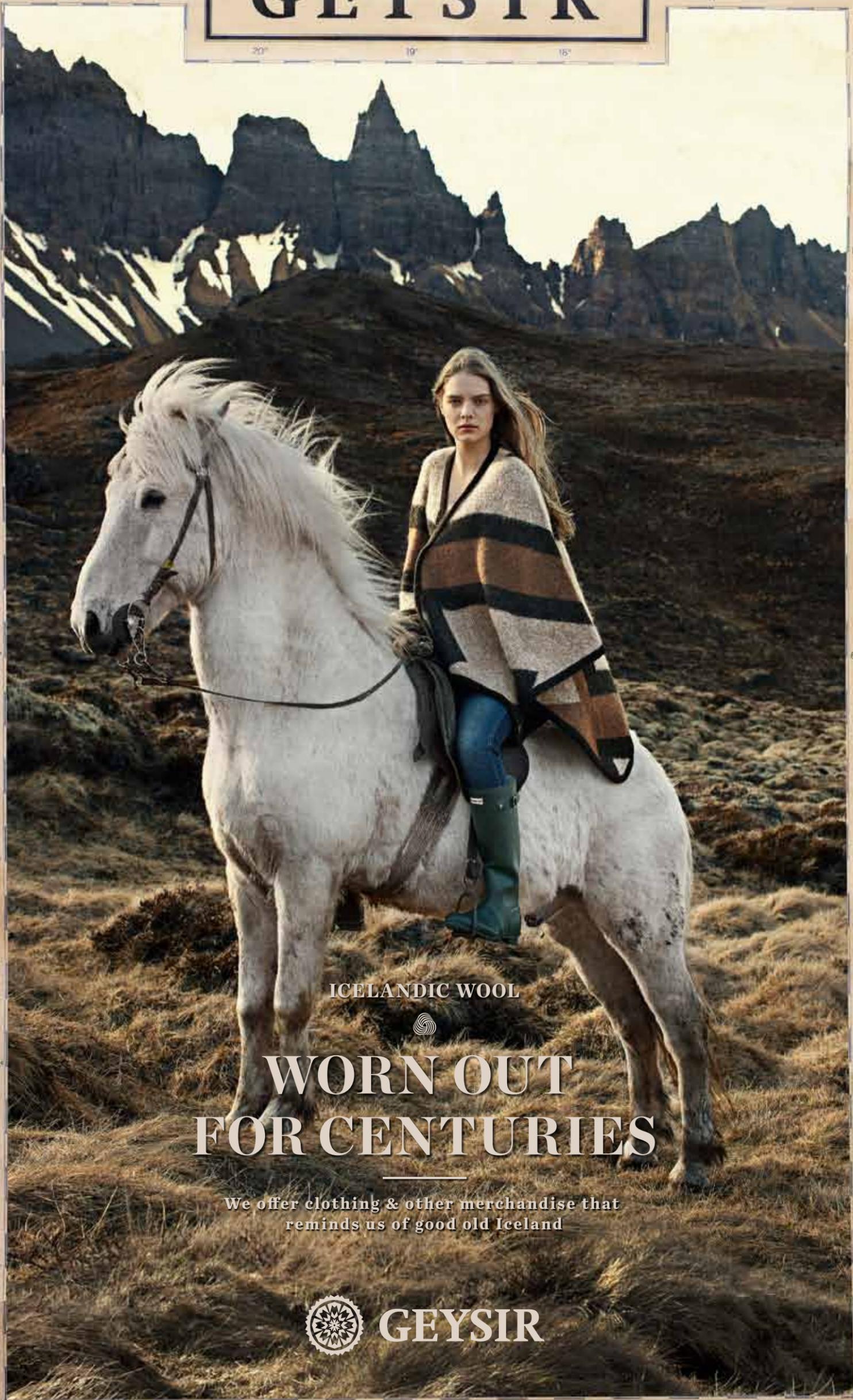
Visit the Laugarvatn Fontana wellness centre. Relax in steam rooms over a natural hot spring and open air thermal baths. Afterwards try local delicacies in our café. Ask us how the locals at Laugarvatn use the steam baths!

fontana

Geothermal Baths

www.fontana.is

GEYSIR



ICELANDIC WOOL



WORN OUT FOR CENTURIES

We offer clothing & other merchandise that reminds us of good old Iceland



GEYSIR

THE ICELANDIC HAMBURGER FACTORY



BE SQUARE AND BE THERE

Gullfoss and Geysir are surely a must-see in Iceland, but neither is something you eat. That's why we have 15 brilliant and creative hamburgers at the Hamburger Factory.

Located on the groundfloor of the highest tower of Reykjavík, and on the groundfloor of the historic Hotel Kea in Akureyri, the Hamburger Factory has been packed with burger-craving customers since it's opening in april 2010. Among the regulars is Iceland's best known fisherman, Eric Clapton.

Attention: Our hamburger buns are not round. They are square. Does it taste better? You tell us.

THE HAMBURGER FACTORY HAS TWO RESTAURANTS IN ICELAND.



The Hamburger Factory Reykjavik
Höfðatorg Tower. Groundfloor.



The Hamburger Factory Akureyri
Kea Hotel. Groundfloor.

HOW TO GET THERE

SOME TIPS ON HOW TO GET TO US WHILE LOOKING COOL AND LOCAL

This is what you say to the taxi driver
or when asking locals for directions:

“Íslenska Hamborgarafabrikkan, takk”
(„The Icelandic Hamburger Factory, please“)

When you arrive you tell the waiter:

“Sælar! Hvað er að fréttu”
(Hello! What's up)

**“Ég er þokkalega svangur,
get ég fengið hamborgara”**

(I'm quite hungry, can I get a hamburger)

From that point on you are in good hands.
Be there or be square!

Opening hours:
Sun.-Wed. 11.00 - 22.00
Thu.-Sat. 11.00 - 24.00

Reservations:
Tel: 575 7575
fabrikkan@fabrikkan.is
www.fabrikkan.is

2010

Sour grapes & stuff

MOST AWESOME LETTER

From the perspective of a tourist, please don't fill your beautiful city with hotels. One of the things I loved most about Reykjavik was the colorful culture. We eloped last year during Airwaves and we could not wait to take pictures around the city highlighting its natural beauty as well as human-inspired art. We spent hours outside in the cold posing with the richness of the colors and talented street art. It's the perfect accompaniment to a city decorated with so much color. Since our departure I've caught wind of musical venues closing and a crackdown on street art. It was the ability to get lost wandering the city and finding secret spots of color and culture that won my heart. Admittedly, I have yet to stay in a hotel and I probably never will. My husband and I enjoy using airbnb to stay in apartments and homes tucked around the city. Coming back to a home rather than a room is the best way to experience any city. However, if the tourist industry is growing and that provides economic relief, push the hotels to the outskirts and improve city transportation. A few extra hotel shuttles would go along way to preserve the colorful quaintness of the city. I grew up in a tourist trap - a small key off the gulf coast of Florida. Business owners depend on the tourist season to survive but that doesn't mean that the natives like the visitors. We complain about the traffic, the difficulty in getting a table at our favorite restaurant, and the general feeling in the air when it's full of people who aren't playing by our rules. Our

experience in Iceland was fantastic - everyone we met were friendly and helpful. It didn't seem like we were a big inconvenience to them. However, if you fill the city with hotels and take away from the life and culture of the people who make Reykjavik what it is, I have no doubt the entire culture will change - not just for the natives but for the tourists as well.

*Lindsay Levkoff
Colorado, USA

Dear Lindsay,

During this entire debate and hoo-hah over closures for hotels being opened and culture vs. tourism wars, it's often the tourists themselves who seem to get thrown under the bus. So thank you lending your voice to those who have had very little to say about the decisions being made around here. Plus, I think a lot of us agree with you. Come back soon and get a present on us!

Love,
The Grapevine

Hi

I've been to Reykjavik this year for about 5 weeks and loved your paper which I'm missing now. That's the reason I'd like to ask you if there is a chance to get the paper sent to Austria? It would be a great pleasure for me to offer it to anyone here in my small little bar. If there is a chance I'm willing to pay almost everything.

Yours Robert

Hi Robert,

Thanks for such a nice email! You can most definitely subscribe to our publication by going right here: grapevine.is/sub/Subscriptions. Then you can share our silly little rag with all your friends and patrons until they tire of our foolish ramblings.

Love,
The Grapevine

Hi.

I just read your article about these new champagne clubs. I went to the VIP Club not long ago and there were two things I was surprised you didn't mention. The first was that when you walk up to the club there's an iron fence that a bouncer opens and closes when you enter. The second is that I paid for a beer with my card, and I when I got home I could see that the transfer was registered to a travel company called VIP Travel. As you can see Kristján Georg Jósteynsson is the registered owner of said company.

If you use this information, I don't want my name to be published.

Hello anonymous,

Thank you so much for your tip! Our journalist must have gone there on a slow night as the bouncer didn't bother opening or closing a gate. In trying to conceal his identity, the journalist also paid in cash and didn't figure out that Kristján was registered as the owner.

We encourage our readers to contact the police with their experiences of visiting champagne clubs. If there are further illegal activities taking place, it is paramount that they reach the right ears. You can also let us at the Grapevine know. Who knows, there may be a follow up article in the making.

Yours,
The Femi-communist propagandists

YOUR PRIZE FOR THAT MOST AWESOME LETTER OF YOURS IS: AN ICELANDIC LAMB MEAL FOR TWO AT HRESSINGARSKÁLINN (HRESSÓ)

Dear reader. We love you very much, especially those of you that write us letters all the time. In fact we love you so much that we keep trying to reward you somehow for writing us those letters. They entertain us, and they keep us informed of what our readers think. That is a pretty great deal. Now. Whoever wrote this issue's MOST AWESOME LETTER gets a prize. And it's a pretty great one. Like this delicious meal of ICELANDIC LAMB FOR TWO AT HRESSÓ, that our winner can treat themselves and a date to! And may we say that Hressó do a really tasty job cooking up our local mountain-roamers. Lucky, lucky winner! And if you for some reason didn't write this issue's MOST AWESOME LETTER, you can always try again later.



Le Château des Dix Gouttes



The Ten Drops
VIN DE SALLE



WE ARE OPEN FROM 09:00 AM UNTIL 01:00 AM

Laugavegur 27 101 Reykjavik (+354) 551-9380 www.facebook.com/LeChateauDesDixGouttes



**BE
WARM
BE
WELL**

Beware Of The Plastics

A new initiative aims to end Iceland's plastic bag usage

by Rebecca Louder

Although environmentalists consider Iceland's coastline to be one of the cleanest in the world, many of our rocky beaches are covered in rainbows of plastic refuse. Bottles, containers and, the worst offenders, plastic bags wedge their way in between the rocks and stay put, potentially for thousands of years. Of course, this is largely invisible in those beautiful overhead landscape photographs of our shores, but even taking a walk on the western-most coast of Reykjavík is a startling and sad sight.



Magnús Andersen

Small Steps

Plastic bags are the target of Plastic Bag Free Saturdays ("Plastpokalaus Laugardagur"), a new initiative that aims to end the use of non-degradable plastic bags altogether. They are approaching this goal by means of an open letter encouraging individuals to stop using plastic bags for one day a week, asking stores not to offer them and appealing to politicians to consider a country-wide ban. It is underwritten by almost thirty names, including many prominent figures like artist Gabríela Friðriksdóttir, musician Páll Óskar, and first lady Dorrit Moussaieff.

Should their latter plea come to pass, Iceland would join the 40% of the world's population currently living in areas where plastic bag consumption has been restricted or banned. As things are, Icelanders consume over 50 million single-use, non-degradable plastic bags every year, which take 215,000 gallons of oil to produce and cost 3.2 billion ISK in foreign currency to import in 2012 alone. Most of these bags were used for a grand total of twenty minutes before being tossed

into the circle of garbage life. The problem is that their lifespan can be hundreds of thousands of years.

"Plastic bags go everywhere. They fly around, get caught in nature, float into our oceans and gather on our coasts," says Tristan Gribbin, one of the initiative's founders. "They poison the fish in our waters, which we end up consuming or exporting." Considering that fishing is Iceland's strongest industry and accounts for a quarter of the country's exports, this could have serious implications.

Global Impact

According to the article 'Plastic Pollution' by Claire Le Guern Lytle on CoastalCare.com, studies by Japanese chemist Katsuhiko Saido revealed that plastic products release the toxic substances bisphenol A (BPA) and PS oligomer into seawater, which metabolise in the body after ingestion. This poses a great risk to marine life, and perhaps subsequently to humans who consume them. The accumulation of non-degradable plastic waste

Plastic Bag Free Saturday group is hoping to begin making changes at home on a grassroots level, by spreading the word through social media and their website, plastpokalaus.com. Four of its members, Björg Ingadóttir, Dísá Anderiman, Ásta Hauksdóttir and Tristan Gribbin, held a press conference at Harpa on August 27 to raise awareness of the cause and boost people up to take action starting immediately.

Simple Solutions

"If everyone took their own bags to the store on Saturdays then stores would not sell any and they would have no use to offer them," Björg says. Alternative solutions to plastic bags include using cloth totes, which are cheaply available or easily made at home with a few fabric scraps, and other re-usable bags. Some stores, like Bónus and Ikea, already sell their own re-usable shopping bags made from sturdy, recycled material.

The members are not entirely anti-plastic bag, however, as long as they are being re-purposed and not contributing to further waste. "If people have a bunch of plastic bags at home and they just bring a few of those to the store, that is great too," Tristan says. "We just want to see people recycling. It is about sustainability and waste reduction, in the end, in whatever form it takes." Helping to reduce plastic bag waste can also mean switching to using biodegradable cornstarch-based bags ("maispokar") as trash-bin liners, which altogether eliminates any lingering need to ask for plastic bags at the store.

So what to do with that drawer stuffed to the brim full of plastic bags in your kitchen? Those can be packed into some reusable bags and hauled over to any of the Sorpa waste-management and recycling drop off centres. The closest one to downtown is at Grandi, on the western-most coast of Reykjavík. A walk on that litter-ridden shore quiets any doubt that plastic pollution is indeed a very local problem.

“ We want to change this on every level, through individual action, stores no longer carrying them and political action.

in the oceans has also created many garbage patches, like the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, which trap marine animals and permanently contaminate ecosystems. Sturla Gunnarsson's 2010 documentary, 'Force Of Nature: The David Suzuki Movie,' deals in part with the efforts to rid the oceans of plastic waste and the irreversible damage that has already occurred.

Nothing is hopeless, though. The



As summer nears its expiration, it's time to start turning inward. Put the kettle on the stove and light up that fire, home is about to become a lot more home-y. Icelanders are not the only ones trying to get cosy, as **Kim Dotcom, the founder of the file hosting services Megaupload and Mega, announced that he is considering moving part of his operation to Iceland** from its current homebase in New Zealand. Dotcom commended Iceland's information environment and added that there is a lot of opportunity for internet services in smaller, friendly countries like Iceland as larger countries like the US crack down on surveillance.



Meanwhile it seems people are growing less and less happy with Iceland's political climate. A recent poll by Market and Media Research shows that **support for the ruling coalition of the Progressive and Independence parties has dropped below 50%, down from 54% just a month previous.**

Furthermore, a study at the University of Iceland showed that **76% of respondents had "little to no trust in parliament."** To top it all off, Capacent's recent "Hope Index" revealed that despite what appeared to be a hopeful spike back in May—the first time the Index showed more positive responses than negative since the crash—the numbers are back down, meaning that a majority of respondents answered negatively in terms of their faith in the current government.



The distrust builds like a layer cake, but a bit more sour. Maybe more like rotten shark ice cream, one of the novelty flavours offered on **August 17 at Hveragerði's self-declared Ice Cream Day!**

I scream, you scream, we all scream for...the sake of screaming! From August 23 to September 1 **four "scream chambers" can be found at various**

Continues over

They said what?

by Ingibjörg Rósa Björnsdóttir



"I've never paid wealth-tax."

— Minister of Finance Bjarni Benediktsson told Vísir, August 27.

No, he was not admitting tax evasion. At least we don't think so. The minister of finance and chair of the Independence Party was merely correcting rumours that he was one of four MPs who were earning enough—individuals with assets worth more than 75 million a year and households with more than 100 million ISK—to pay the so-called "wealth tax" implemented by the previous left-wing government in 2010. The new coalition government of the Progressive and Independence Party sees no need for squeezing more money out of the rich in Iceland, despite the fact that Bjarni and his friends wiped most of the intended fishing fees off the table this June and added a few billion ISK to the budget gap. But no worries, instead they've proposed budget cuts to education and national broadcasting. A righteous fighter for justice, Bjarni announced this week that the wealth tax would not be extended because it was supposed to be a temporary measure and also because he believed it violated the constitution. Immediately people started a malicious rumour that Bjarni, Prime Minister Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson and two other MPs were amongst the 5,980 who paid the said tax last year. Not only that but newspaper DV also stated that, according to their calculations, Bjarni and his wife must have paid nearly two million ISK in wealth-tax last year while Sigmundur Davíð must have paid 22 million. Apparently, they were all wrong, as Bjarni stated on his Facebook page. So, now we know.



"Should I stay or should I go?"

— Mayor of Reykjavík Jón Gnarr wrote on his official Facebook page, August 22.

Da-rarra-dara-ra-ra-dah, da-rarra-dara-ra-ra-dah. Darlin' you got to let me know...Jón Gnarr posted The Clash song, "Should I Stay or Should I Go" on his Facebook page with the question, "Elections next spring. What do you think?" The post received 992 likes and dozens of comments from people either asking him to run for office again or call it a day after this term. They responded with various songs from "Stay" (do you know how many songs have that title?) to "Don't Go" to "The Show Must Go On." To make things more clear, DV set up an online poll with the same question, should Jón Gnarr stay or go? The results show that 65.1% of respondents want him to stay and 31.9% want him to go. The remaining 3% either don't know what they want or voted that they didn't want to answer (huh?). A few days later Jón said he'd give the matter "serious consideration" and tell us on October 31 whether or not he intends to run. It's always tease, tease, tease...

Welcome to tax free Shopping

Iceland's largest Shopping Center!

**Free
bus drive**
from Tourist Information
in Aðalstræti!

Mon.-Sat.
Bus leaves at 11 am,
1, 3 and 5 pm.

Thu. Extra drive
at 7 pm.

Sun.
Bus leaves at
1, 3 and 4 pm.

 Smáralind

by Parker Yamasaki

downtown Reykjavík locations as a part of the Reykjavík Dance Festival. Everyone is invited to step in and let it all out, including the mayor, Jón Gnarr, who led the inauguration of the scream chambers on August 23.



We're guessing he's screaming with glee after a DV poll revealed that **64.4% of respondents are in favour of Jón running for re-election as mayor, while only 32.5% felt otherwise.**

He also may have slipped in a few choice words for Moscow, which he couldn't include in his diplomatic proposal to reconsider ties with Reykjavík's sister city. Jón's proposal was approved by the city council earlier this month, and the city's lawyer and city manager have been appointed to begin the task of amending or officially cancelling the agreement signed back in 2007. **Good riddance, Moscow.**



In other foreign affairs, skyr is becoming increasingly popular abroad. **Current skyr sales abroad more than triple domestic sales, as reported by Visir.** One company, MS Iceland Dairies, produces more than 36 million units of skyr every year, and only 11.7 million of them are consumed on home turf.

Speaking of hot topics, on **August 17, an abandoned house in Heart Park was set ablaze.** The immediate cause of the fire is unknown, but the area itself

Continues over

So What's This Censorship Of Icelandic State Media I Keep Hearing About?

Words: Kári Tulinius | Illustration: Inga María Brynjarsdóttir

RÚV, the state-owned National Broadcasting Service, has not been censored by anyone yet. What is making people uncomfortable is that it is necessary to add a "yet" to the end of that sentence. Members of the ruling right-wing coalition government, made up of the Independence and Progressive parties, have suggested that RÚV's news coverage is slanted against them.



Politicians are a paranoid bunch; plenty are just a hair breadth's away from wearing tinfoil hats, tinfoil overalls and tinfoil jockstraps.

That has to get pretty sweaty. Two members of the Progressive Party have proposed measures in response to this perceived slant. Vigdís Hauksdóttir reacted to being quoted incorrectly on RÚV news by expressing the sentiment that "an abnormal amount of money goes into running RÚV, especially if they are not better journalists." Which would be kind of funny if she had been joking and was not the head of parliament's budget committee. Another proposal was put forth by Frosti Sigurjónsson, chair of the finance and business committee.

Wasn't Frosti Sigurjónsson the Batman villain who kidnapped Miss Iceland?

You are thinking of Mr. Freeze. Frosti went on a RÚV talk show with novelist Hallgrímur Helgason, shortly after the author had read an essay on RÚV criticizing the Progressive Party. The MP did not take the jabs at his party with the good cheer of a person comfortable in power. During his ill-tempered exchange with the writer he said that it would be a good idea to create some kind of committee or institution that would ensure a proper balance in political perspective at RÚV.

Nothing wrong with fair and balanced... oh, I see the problem now.

In case there was any doubt about what he thought of RÚV, he founded a Facebook group in 2009 devoted to painting RÚV as a left-wing bogeyman. Given this background, it is quite uncomfortable that Illugi Gunnarsson, the Independence Party minister responsible for state media, put forth a legislative proposal to change the RÚV board from an independent body to one that is politically appointed.

Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean you don't have the power to persecute your imaginary enemies.

So far there have been no concrete proposals, legislative or otherwise, to control the journalism of RÚV. However, to quote Spiderman, with great power comes great responsibility, and the Progressive Party has been busy using its new-found political power to shoot web-goo at the mouths of people whose words they do not like.

While they can threaten state-run media, the privately-owned media is surely beyond their control?

That is true, but the privately-owned media is in an even worse situation than public broadcasting. The largest media

group, 365 miðlar, is owned by heavily indebted business tycoon Jón Ásgeir Jóhannesson. Fréttablaðið, its newspaper, has spent the last few months in upheaval. Many of its most highly regarded journalists have left after the installment of a controversial new editor.

When government is too inefficient to censor the media, the market steps in.

The nadir of the new editor's tenure came when Fréttablaðið had a deeply weird eight page pull-out obituary section devoted to its owner's father, also a business tycoon. It included a photograph of him as a three-year-old, for instance. And the other daily newspaper, Morgunblaðið, is owned by other tycoons and edited by a former right-wing prime minister who has gone out of his way to bash RÚV's journalism.

They're simply serving the market for RÚV-bashing among right-wing politicians. What about other radio and TV stations?

The national ones who have dedicated reporters are also part of 365 miðlar and share editorial control. Its main TV station incidentally put together a special about the owner's father passing too. And regional media do their best but they are very small operations, and the same goes for internet news-sites. The other print news media are either pub-

lished weekly or less often, and many are struggling to survive financially.

“

And that is because it is staffed by elves and cannot be vanquished by mere mortals, not even supervillain Mr. Freeze.

”

Can you give me a glimmer of hope? I don't mind being lied to.

RÚV has yet to show any signs of buckling under pressure and as a news-gathering operation it is without peer in Iceland. And that is because it is staffed by elves and cannot be vanquished by mere mortals, not even supervillain Mr. Freeze. That was a lie; elves would not stand a chance against blasts from a freeze gun. Though it is good you do not mind being lied to, because if the hard-line parts of the current government get their way, that is what you might come to expect from Icelandic media.



Kolabrautin is on 4th floor Harpa
Order a table in phone 519 9700
info@kolabrautin.is
www.kolabrautin.is



KOLABRAUTIN RISTORANTE

UNIQUE EXPERIENCE AND A VIEW LIKE NO OTHER

A dinner or lunch at the elevated fourth floor of Harpa concert hall is a destination in itself. Relax and enjoy fine Italian cuisine complemented with a spectacular panoramic view of Reykjavík and the surrounding horizon.



GENTLE GIANTS
WHALE WATCHING
HÚSAVÍK • ICELAND

THIS IS IT

WELCOME
2013

Visit The Gentle Giants up north in Húsavík Our Whale Watching Capital of Iceland



GG1 • WHALE WATCHING



GG7 • BIG WHALE SAFARI & Puffins



“Gentle experts”



“Big Whale Safari is Iceland's MUST DO!”

“Highlight of the summer” • “The most remarkable experience I have ever had” •
“Family bonding & fun with Gentle Giants” • “Excellent service” • “Everything was perfect during the whole trip!” • “Memorable experience, forever engraved in my memory”



150 YEARS OF FAMILY HISTORY IN THE BAY
Tel. +354 464 1500 • www.gentlegiants.is • info@gentlegiants.is

MEMBER OF ICEWHALE - THE ICELANDIC WHALE WATCHING ASSOCIATION



The Most Political Waterfall Appreciation Page On Facebook

by Arit John

Facebook is overflowing with pages devoted to the beauty of Icelandic nature. There's "Icelandic Nature," "Icelandic Nature Travels," "Icelandic Nature Tours," "Icelandic Nature Photos by Snorri" and the list goes on, but the most important and most political page is arguably Halli Björnsson's "Protect Icelandic Nature."



Magnús Andersen

Like the other nature pages, the majority of posts are pictures of the flora and fauna, the sun setting over a lake, waterfalls in winter, waterfalls in summer, waterfalls at sunset and the Northern Lights. But the page is also one of the few English language resources for non-Icelanders who care about those flora, fauna, lakes and waterfalls.

"I noticed that a lot of the information about environmental politics isn't really available to people who don't read Icelandic," said Halli, who created the page last September. Since then, he has kept the page's fol-

lowers, up to 9,600 now, updated on the developments in the fight between nature preservationists and pro-industrialists.

How Is This Okay?

Today Halli lives in London, where he runs Lockwood Publishing, but he was raised in Reykjavík and Kópavogur. As a kid he would spend his summers visiting his grandparents in Stokkseyri, on the south coast of Iceland. And he said those visits might be what kick-

started his environmentalist instinct.

He started the page after visiting Iceland as an expat and noticing the effect heavy industry was having on the landscape. "I go to Iceland at least twice a year and between those visits there has been a massive amount of change, a large amount of which is destruction," Halli said. "Obviously you need to harness the resources you have, but I felt in many cases it was done so badly."

A few particularly glaring examples of what he saw as destruction are the open surface mine next to Selfoss and the decline in the fish population in Lagarfljót following the completion of the Kárahnjúkar dam. Several of the nature spots green lit for construction on the Master Plan for Hydro and Geothermal Energy Resources in Iceland, including plans to dam Þjórsá, the longest river in Iceland, are also problematic for Halli. "It's kind of unbelievable that people thought this was okay," he says.

Inspired By Icelanders

The "Protect Icelandic Nature" page takes its lead from two large-scale efforts to preserve Iceland's untouched nature: the 2009 documentary film 'Dreamland' and a non-profit environmentalist group called Landvernd. 'Dreamland', directed by Þorfinnur Guðnason & Andri Snær Magnason, is based on the 2006 book by the latter, which covers the largest industrial effort undertaken by the Icelandic government: the Kárahnjúkar dam in Reyðarfjörður.

While industry has the backing of multinational corporations like Alcoa and the national power company, Landsvirkjun, there is not a huge environmental lobby outside of environmentalists like Landvernd and the makers of 'Dreamland'. "Historically, the energy sector has a much bigger influence in government," Halli said. "They're entrenched in the way things happen."

One group that would benefit from supporting pro-nature initiatives is the growing tourism industry, which contributed 5.9% of the country's GDP and provided 5.1% of all jobs in 2009, according to Statistics Iceland.

Of course Iceland's major appeal for tourists is the country's nature. According to a report released by Promote Iceland in February, 80% of summer tourists and 71% of winter tourists listed Icelandic nature as a factor influencing their decision to visit the country.

The Protect Icelandic Nature page has drawn followers from across the globe and the page is currently looking for people to translate resources into languages other than Icelandic and English as, Halli explained, he sees Icelandic environmentalism as a global issue.

"A lot of people have lost what we still have in Iceland," Halli said. "Places around the world have already lost this thing that still exists in Iceland and would hate to see us destroy it."

by Parker Yamasaki

has been host to a lot of friction lately, as the future site of Hotel Cultura. Maybe all it needed was a spark. Center Hotels owner, Kristófer Óliversson, certainly did not relieve any of the tensions between local users of the park and the hotel industry when he accused squatters of starting the fire, adding that the park is a blight on the city.



Meanwhile, Ólafur F. Magnússon, the former mayor of Reykjavík, continues his assault on Reykjavík's plans to build a mosque. He has now deemed the mosque an "insult to Iceland's history, especially to the people of Vestmannaeyjar" and said that Muslims are taking up too much space in Icelandic society. But the current mayor in Vestmannaeyjar, Elliði Vignisson assured the media that people of Vestmannaeyjar are not worried about the mosque, and that Ólafur's reference to the "Turkish Invasion"—which he compared the Islamic influence to—is out of line with the historical event. Essentially what he's saying is that Ólafur needs to calm down.



But the flamethrowing is just getting started. Visir reported that Reykjavík artist Ingimar Oddsson is planning Iceland's first ever Steampunk festival, tentatively scheduled for next June 27 to 30. Ingimar promises all the usual and unusual steampunk shenanigans, including dancing men in top hats, women in corsets, and a blimp.

More Iceland for less money

All seasons!

EXCITING DAY TOURS - BEAUTIFUL PLACES

- GRAND GOLDEN CIRCLE
- GOLDEN CIRCLE Afternoon
- GLACIER LAGOON
- SOUTH COAST - VIK
- BLUE LAGOON Schedule

BUSTRAVEL
Iceland

Book online www.bustravel.is or call +354 511 2600



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

DAY TOURS FROM REYKJAVÍK



TAKE A WALK ON THE ICE SIDE | Price: 20.900 ISK.
 Daily departures all year at 8.30.
 Discover the Highlights of the South Coast with the ultimate Glacier Walk and Waterfalls combo tour.



WALK THROUGH ICE AND FIRE | Price: 27.900 ISK.
 Departures, Summer: Every Day except Mondays.
 Winter: Mon, Thu, Sat, Sun at 8:30.
 A great combination of a Hot Spring Hike with a bath and a Glacier Walk.



ESSENTIAL ICELAND | Price: 36.500 ISK.
 Departures all year: Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun at 8.30.
 All in one Super Jeep Day tour, including Glaciers, Lava Fields, Caving, Hot Springs and Waterfalls.



and many more...



ICELAND ROVERS



ICELANDIC MOUNTAIN GUIDES

MAKE SURE IT'S MOUNTAIN GUIDES

mountainguides.is · icelandrovers.is · mountainguides@mountainguides.is · Tel: +354 899 9982



Gimme Some Whale

By Jón Trausti Sigurðarson

I remember the first time I tried whale meat. It was the early '90s, and I was a ten-year-old living in the small fishing village of Sandgerði, near Keflavík airport. Although whaling had been forbidden for some years, my mother one day received part of a minke whale calf as a gift from a local fisherman. The poor calf probably ended its days in a fishing net, the ocean's version of a terra firma road kill.



Rebecca Louder

For the next few months, we had that calf for every lunch and dinner. My mum, bless her, tried her best to get us to eat the damn thing. She made whale goulash, whale stew, roasted whale, fried whale—whatever meat recipe you can think of, with whale taking the place of pork, beef or whatever. Apparently, whale meat doesn't store well in your normal everyday household fridge and nothing could hide the ever-growing whale oil taste of the meat as the experiment went on. By spring, even the family cat had had enough.

So that was the story of how I ate whale for one winter during my childhood and, needless to say, a few years would pass before I dared to try whale again. In fact, the next time I consumed whale was as an adult, during the summer of 2003 when then editor of this very publication and I enjoyed an 18-year-old deep frozen fin whale steak at the only place in the world still serving such food, the restaurant Þrír Frakkar. This was obviously for journalistic purposes. I didn't hate it, but I didn't like it either. It was kinda like bad beef. Since 2003, I've had whale numerous times, mostly in the form of whale sushi. Last Monday, I ate cooked minke whale for the first time in over 20 years. It was pretty great, although the experience did bring some bad memories, especially the mild oily aftertaste. Still, it wasn't bad overall, and I'll probably eat it again. However, the whale I ate this time was probably not accidentally killed, rather hunted by a whaler, in a whaling boat, using a harpoon. This is a big plus.

On The Pointlessness Of It

This brings me to a point I wanted to make about killing whales. There was an article in Grapevine's last issue titled "The Wrong Kind of Whale Watching." It describes journalist Rebecca Louder's

road trip to the whaling station of Hvalur hf. in Hvalfjörður (I love how they situate their whaling station in a fjord called "Whale fjord"), with a group of protesters. So they go there and watch the whale being dismembered while protesters hold signs that say "What's the point?" rather than something like "Save the Whale" or "Stop the Killing."

As for the protesters' question, "What's the point?" I'm pretty sure Mr. Kristján Loftsson co-owner of Hvalur hf., is the only person capable of answering that. Some of his board members at Hvalur hf. don't even all agree that killing whales is good business. But that is what this comes down to really. Killing those whales is not, if recent scientific research is to be believed, endangering the species at all.

Let's elaborate on that a little. Two species of whale are currently being hunted in Iceland: minke whale and fin whale. According to The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the official authority on threatened species, minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata* or Common Minke Whale) are not endangered; they are categorised under "Least Concern." According to the same source, it is estimated that there are over 100,000 minke whales in the Northern Hemisphere and, according to an estimate made by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in 2001, 30,100 to 63,100 of them inhabited in Icelandic coastal waters in 2001. The Icelandic Marine Research Institute (IMRI) has proposed that in 2014 and 2015 the maximum of 350 minke whales are to be hunted annually around Iceland.

Unlike the minke whale, the IUCN lists the fin whales (*Balaenoptera hysalus*) as "endangered." This is due to the fact that the IUCN list looks at the species as one worldwide population. It estimated in 2000 that there were 50,000 fin whales in the North-

Atlantic Ocean and that as many as 25,800 of those live in the ocean around Iceland, Greenland, Jan Mayen and the Faeroes. Although the stock is struggling in places like Antarctica, which formerly had the largest population of fin whales, and is far from full recovery after heavy overhunting in the 20th century, it is not "endangered" everywhere. Thus, the IUCN says, "it must be recognized that a global category may not be the same as a national or regional category for a particular taxon," when it comes to the fin whale population. The IMRI proposes that in 2014 and 2015 the maximum of 154 fin whales are to be hunted annually around Iceland, believing the hunting will not endanger the fin whale population in the area, as it is in their opinion almost as large as it was before whaling began.

All right. So the argument for nature preservation is void, leaving the protesters with three arguments: killing whales is bad business, hence the latest protest, killing whales is bad PR and killing whales is ethically wrong. Let's look at those arguments.

1

Killing Whales Is Bad Business

This one is probably true. Whale meat is not selling, for lack of a better metaphor, like water in a desert. At the moment, Hvalur hf. doesn't have an overseas buyer after its Japanese clients cancelled their contract. As far as I can tell, this is a problem for the owners of Hvalur hf. to figure out. You don't run a whole protest to tell other people to not run their business into the ground, do you? Furthermore, if it is bad business, the problem will eventually solve itself via bankruptcy. So that's a dead end.

2

Killing Whales Is Bad PR

That part I get. Killing whales is probably bad PR for Iceland. If you want to fight that fight though, you have to direct your protest at the government of Iceland, which decides whether or not whales are to be killed. If someone could measure how bad the whale killing business is for Iceland's PR, that would be good. Looking at the number of tourists visiting Iceland won't help, as that number has been increasing since Iceland started killing whales again in 2003, jumping from 300,000 tourists to about 700,000 tourists today. Maybe we would have had even more tourists if it weren't for the whale killing, but how can we really know? Perhaps this could be measured in the "goodwill" Iceland is missing out on or something, but such surveys have not been conducted as far as I know. So until someone gets off their lazy ass to measure the PR situation I've nothing to go on and neither do the protesters. Actually, according to Sigursteinn Mátsson, the spokesperson for the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), tourists actually end

up both watching whales and eating them, without really caring, thus sustaining whaling in Iceland. This, Mr. Mátsson, describes as a problem that is comparable to watching and then eating gorillas in the Congo, which is a ludicrous statement, since gorillas in the Congo are critically endangered, whereas fin whales around Iceland are not, and in the case of minke whales, not even close.

3

Killing Whales Is Ethically Wrong

Killing a whale sometimes takes up to an hour, according to Mr. Mátsson. We can all agree on that being a bad thing, but does that mean that whale killing should cease or that the whalers need to improve their killing technology? Whale is wild game. In Iceland, so are reindeers, ducks, geese, etc. Killing wild game happens in nature, not in a slaughterhouse, so the kill is sometimes not "clean." Still, we've come a long way from beating wild animals to death with rocks and bats. They are now generally killed with precision and modern technology, minimizing the potential suffering. And, opposed to most domesticated animals, wild game is wild. That is, they have it a hell of a lot better their whole life, up until coming head, heart or flesh on with a harpoon or a bullet. Or in most cases, a non-human inflicted death, which is probably not that pleasant.

At the same time, the slaughtering methods for domesticated animals has also improved greatly in the past decades. This is a good thing, both for the animals themselves and for the quality of the meat, since a relaxed animal tends to taste better than a distressed one. And bear in mind, regarding the domesticated animals, that some of them never even saw the light of day before being put out of their misery. This brings up the question of whether it is better to live free and die hard, or to be born and bred in captivity to have a clean, almost clinical death (yup, that was a Die Hard pun).

So, even if the odd whale, reindeer or goose takes a long time to die, or the odd animal suffers needlessly in the slaughterhouse due to a mistake or an accident, should we simply stop eating and killing them? Well, we should obviously do everything we can to avoid needless animal suffering and all that, but me, I'll be at home, eating my minke whale steak and grilled lamb chops, hoping that the animal I'm eating lead a happy life, and met its end in the most humane fashion possible. Even though I am aware that sometimes these things go wrong. Those who can't handle knowing how the "sausage gets made" can obviously opt for not eating warm-blooded mammals. And then go protest the pointless business plans of Hvalur hf.

THE NUMBER 1 MUSIC STORE
IN EUROPE ACCORDING TO
LONELY PLANET

12 Tónar

SKÓLAVÖRÐUSTÍG 15, 101 REYKJAVÍK AND HARPA CONCERT HALL

HAFNARBÚÐIR

GEIRSGATA 9, 101 REYKJAVIK (OLD HARBOUR)



MYRIN
concept store



MAR
RESTAURANT · CAFÉ · BAR

WE OFFER ICELANDIC DELICACIES
PREPARED IN SOUTH AMERICAN
AND SOUTHERN EUROPEAN STYLE.



OPEN 11:30-23:00
LUNCH 11:30-14:00
APERITIVO 14:00-18:00
DINNER 18:00-23:00



myrin-kringlunni.is

00354 568 8989

#myrin

marrestaurant.is

00354 519 5050

#marrestaurant

www.elding.is
+354 519 5000
#eldingwhale



Northern light Cruise 15 September - 15 April at 22:00

Imagine Peace Tour 9 October - 8 December at 20:00

Viðey Ferry 15 May - 30 September from 11:15 to 17:15

WHALE WATCHING

and other adventures at sea from Reykjavík

Elding Whale Watching schedule - all year round

EL-01 / EL-02 / EL-03									
Jan-Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov-Dec	
	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	
			10:00	10:00	10:00				
13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00
			14:00	14:00	14:00				
		17:00*	17:00	17:00	17:00	17:00*			
			20:30**	20:30					

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



Elding
adventure at sea

The Mark Kennedy Saga Chapter Iceland

By Snorri Páll Jónsson Úlfhildarson

Each time a free-floating rumour gets confirmed, and past political behaviour becomes a scandalous spectacle, one cannot resist wondering if such conduct might be going on today. This was the case in 2006, after a grand exposure of espionage the Icelandic state aimed at socialists during the Cold War. During parliamentary discussions following the revelation, Mörður Árnason, MP for the Social-Democratic Alliance ("Samfylkingin"), highlighted the importance of revealing if similar espionage was indeed occurring in present times. If so, he asked, "how is it being conducted? [...] Which foreign states have been able to access this information?" Quite typically, those questions were never answered.



Sex, Secrecy And Dead Children's Identities

Shortly after Mark was exposed, Irish and German authorities admitted that he had worked within their jurisdictions and with their knowledge. Due to the ongoing efforts of Andrej Hunko—MP for German left party Die Linke—a truckload of information regarding European cross-border undercover police operations has since seen the light of day.

A recent book on the matter, written by Guardian journalists Paul Lewis and Rob Evans, brings further context to the affair—the mapping of at least 30 years of police espionage and infiltration of environmentalist, anti-racist and anarchist movements in the UK and elsewhere. Among the information revealed, the authors explain how the undercover officers at the Special Demonstration Squad—the undercover unit responsible for the infiltration—had the modus operandi of taking up identities of dead children in order to build up credible alter-egos based on the short lives of real persons.

It has also been revealed that Kennedy—along with others in his position—enjoyed several intimate relationships with some of his prospects, using sex to build up trust and gather information. One infiltrator, Bob Lambert, even fathered a child with one of these women, only to disappear as soon as his undercover employment became too risky. Eight British women who were victims of this tactic have pressed charges against the spies' employer, the Metropolitan Police, due to the psychological damage they suffered. In a recent episode of investigative TV programme Dispatches on Channel 4, some of them described their experience as having been mass-raped by the state, as they would never have consented to sleeping with the police officers had they been aware of their real identities. Adding insult to injury, their claims will not be heard openly—the British High Court recently ruled that it would take place in the secret Investigatory Powers Tribunal.

Saving Hells Angels

Enter Iceland, where the big question concerned whether Mark Kennedy had operated with or without the Icelandic authorities' knowledge and approval. According to the country's penal code, a foreign party or state's espionage that takes place within the jurisdiction of the Icelandic state—or is directed at something or someone therein—is illegal and punishable with five-years imprisonment. Had Mark operated without the authorities' knowledge, it should have caused an international conflict. If he, on the other hand, collaborated with the Icelandic police, it would have equalled the invoking of proactive investigative powers, which the Icelandic police apparently didn't have at that time.*

Thus the affair entered Iceland's parliament in late January 2011. Assuming the former version being more likely than the latter, the abovementioned MP Mörður Árnason asked his fellow party-member and then-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Össur Skarphéðinsson, about the government's possible actions regarding the matter. After a few lousy personal jokes thrown between the two, Össur claimed he would wait for a report on the matter—conducted by the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police—which Ögmundur Jónasson, MP for the Left Greens and then Minister of the Interior, had already requested.

But when finally published by the Commissioner's National Security Unit in May 2011, it was pretty much impossible to estimate the relevance of the report, as the details of Ögmundur's request were never made public. It was, however, clear that the National Commissioner—whose report literally equated environmentalist activists with Hells Angels—wasn't about to bring any concrete information out into the public domain.

sources, and that the Icelandic police collaborated with foreign police authorities regarding the protests, the report's authors nevertheless fully dodged the question regarding the Icelandic police's alleged collaboration with Mark Kennedy. The main conclusion of the report merely found that "during an overhaul of data at the National Commissioner's office, no information has come forth enabling an answer regarding whether this agent provocateur [...] was here in collaboration with or without the knowledge of the Icelandic police in 2005." Despite criticism from Saving Iceland and Árni Finnsson, head of the Iceland Nature Conservation Association, which both accused the minister of condoning cover-ups and evasions by accepting these results, Ögmundur never really touched officially on the issue again. Neither did Össur nor Mörður or—as a matter of fact—anyone else from the establishment.

The truth regarding Kennedy's operations in Iceland is still not publicly acknowledged, and the absurdity of the issue as it now stands is probably best described by Ögmundur's own words, taken from an article published on Smugan—a now defunct leftist news-site—and his last public remark on the report: "The National Commissioner's report states that the Icelandic police obtained information from abroad concerning the protests at Kárahnjúkar, but that the police do not have information about how this information was obtained."

* It is, in fact, questionable if the Iceland police had proactive investigative powers or not. As a result of weak laws and a lack of regulations, it actually seems that until 2011 the police had just about carte blanche regarding whom to spy on and for what reason.

Half a decade later, in late 2010, it was revealed that a British police officer, one Mark Kennedy, had travelled around Europe for seven years disguised as environmental and anti-capitalist activist 'Mark Stone' and was collecting information about various activist movements and, in some cases, acting as an agent provocateur. Along with the UK, Denmark, Germany, Italy and France—to name but a few of the places where he worked—he did a stint in Iceland's Eastern highlands in the summer of 2005. In Iceland, he attended a protest camp organised by the environmentalist movement Saving Iceland which targeted the construc-

tion of the gargantuan Kárahnjúkar dam and American aluminium giant Alcoa's smelter in Reyðarfjörður. The revelation mostly stayed within activist circles and publications, until early 2011, when a public expose of the spy's true identity lead to the collapse of a UK trial against six climate-change activists, in which Mark's secretly obtained evidence played a key role. British newspaper The Guardian then took up the case, and the Mark Kennedy saga started to snowball contemporaneously with the broader attention it received, bringing to light a number of other undercover spies.

Lost In Information

Although admitting that the police received information about the activists and their plans via domestic and foreign

More here: <http://www.grapevine.is/Features/ReadArticle/BACK-TO-THE-FUTURE>

Reykjavík 871±2

Landnámssýningin
The Settlement Exhibition

Step into the Viking Age

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

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

The exhibition and museum shop are open daily 10–17

Áðalstræti 16
101 Reykjavík / Iceland
Phone + (354) 411 6370
www.reykjavikmuseum.is

Licensing and registration of travel-related services

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

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

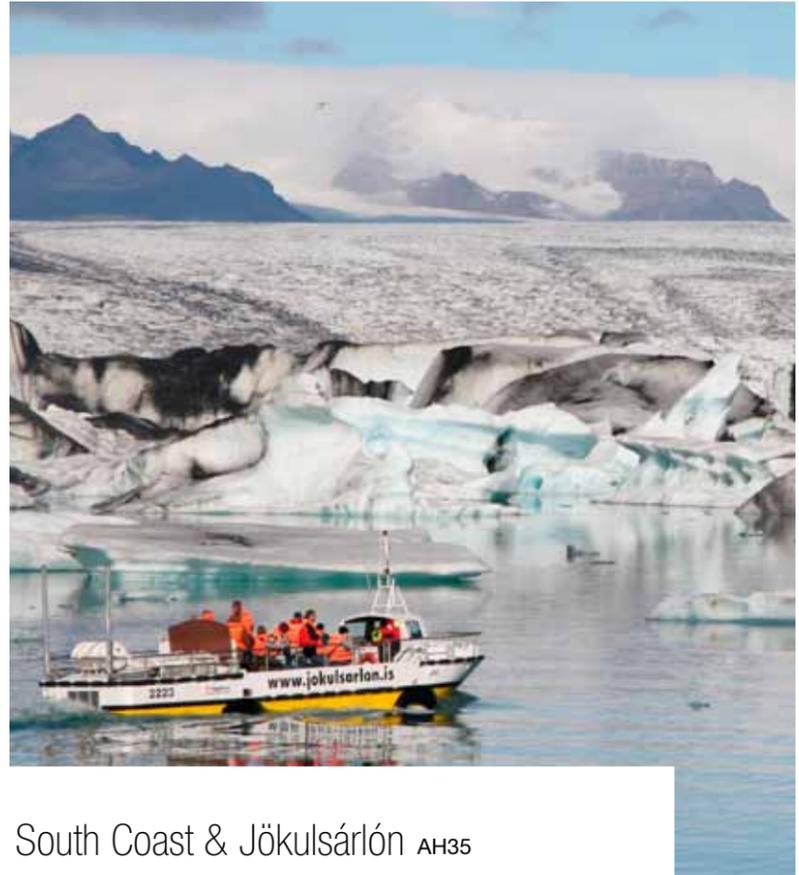
Booking services and information centres are entitled to use a Tourist Board logo on all their material. The logos below are recognised by the Icelandic Tourist Board.

List of licenced Tour Operators and Travel Agencies on: visiticeland.com



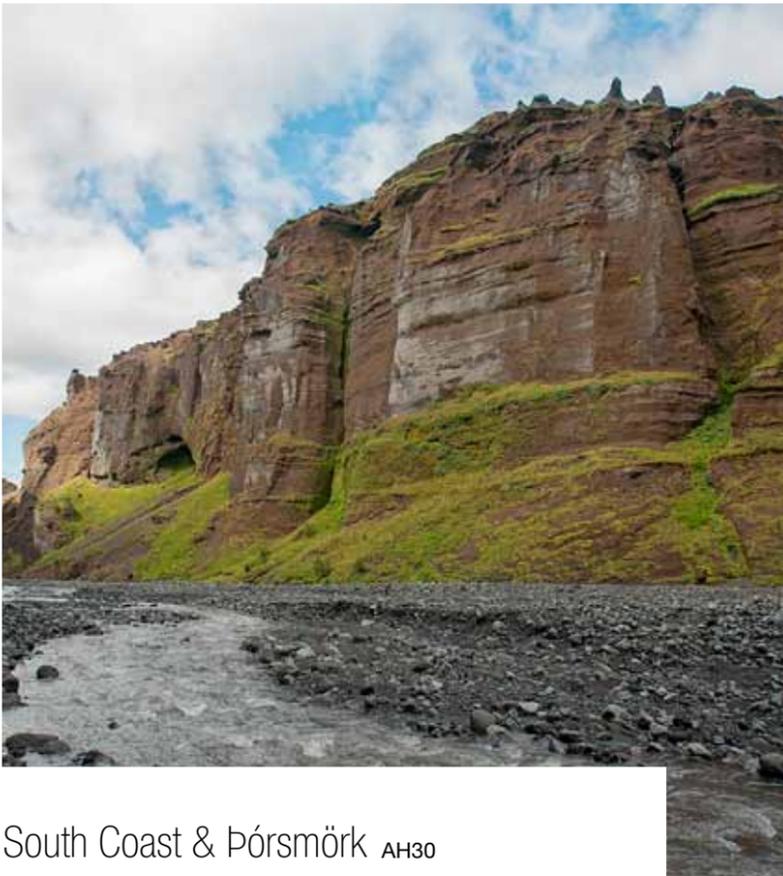
The Golden Circle & Fontana
Geothermal Bath AH77

Price 11.900 ISK ⌚ 16:15-24:00



South Coast & Jökulsárlón AH35

Price 24.900 ISK ⌚ 08:00-22:00



South Coast & Þórsmörk AH30

Price 19.500 ISK ⌚ 08:30-18:30



South Coast, Waterfalls & Glacier Hike AH34

Price 20.900 ISK ⌚ 08:30-19:30

Travel to impress your friends



#Iceland
Excursions



#GrayLine
Iceland

Visit our Sales Office at Lækjartorg
Square. Book your tours online at
www.grayline.is or call us at
+354 540 1313

Hot Dads

Reykjavík's Main Attraction

By Adrienne Blaine



© Adrienne Blaine

As a female whose uterus has rarely conceived of producing a child, I was surprised to find my ovaries becoming hysterical in Reykjavík. No, it wasn't the sight of small children in tiny woollen sweaters that wound my newfound biological clock; it was the men caring for those adorable Icelandic children. I didn't know it was possible, but somehow Reykjavík's hot dad contingent makes parenthood look impossibly sexy.

And I am not alone in these feelings: several female foreigners (and let's not forget homosexual males) have experienced the same allurements: the swoon, followed by lust, turning quickly to serious thoughts of day-care arrangements and re-evaluations of Brady Bunch re-runs. Yet somehow, local Icelanders are completely unfazed by the paternal gods in their midst.

When pitching this article to Grapevine Editor Anna Andersen, for example, I was surprised I even had to explain what, to me, was such a distinct phenomenon. How could anyone miss that Iceland contains a staggeringly high number of hot dads per capita? Sadly, just like anything, the closer you are to something truly incredible, the

harder it is to recognise.

Icelandic women have long been known far and wide for being the fairest of them all, however Icelandic men are just starting to gain attention for their looks—a decidedly softer claim to fame than their Viking ancestors of yore. And while Vikings fathered children like nobody's business, I assume public displays of fatherhood (too bad the abbreviation PDF is already taken) have only recently become more socially acceptable.

With a young population, Iceland's new fathers were mainly between the ages of 24 and 31 in 2012, according to Statistics Iceland. While other Western populations "age" and couples wait longer to have children, "old man" increasingly becomes a more suitable term for fathers than say, "hottie." Even older Icelandic fathers often look younger thanks to those baby-face genes.

The Swiss artist Karin Kurzmeyer and her colleague Piret Uustal, who studied at the Academy of Arts in Reykjavík, illustrated this subject in a collection of 'Very Serious Pictures from Iceland,' which were compiled for the book 'Straight Stuff,' which is described as "Iceland seen through foreign eyes."

In this book we learn that "Icelanders are family-conscious but the family pattern is often a very mixed patchwork. The birthrate is among the highest in Europe. Fathering children with more than one woman is nothing special, and single mothers are common."

And with 2/3 of these children born out of wedlock in 2012, according to Statistics Iceland, there's a better chance that the hot dad you followed from the playground might still be available. And while single mothers continue to bear the brunt of childrearing responsibilities in Iceland, sexually frustrated foreigners can pursue these irresistible hot dads with a lower risk of becoming a "home wrecker." The nuclear family be damned.

Karin illustrates the typical Icelandic dad as sporting a juvenile hoodie and manly scruff while pushing one of the many old-fashioned prams that stroll the Reykjavík's city streets. A caption below reads, "Sexy Dad # 1769, implying that much like mice, when you see one "Sexy Dad" you should assume hundreds more are within the vicinity—just out of view. Yet somehow a city overrun with attractive young males with progeny in tow seems like an acceptable infestation, even if many of them would be considered dead-beat dads by local standards.

After four years of a liberal arts education that beat the idea of "natural" female urges to reproduce and nurture out of me, it seems I still harbour heteronormative reproductive fantasies. My mother will be so pleased. No babies for me just yet though. For now I'll simply appreciate Reykjavík's main attractions—hot dads—from afar.

Do it!

1½ hour Whale Watching & Puffin Tours from Reykjavík

Sea Safari.is
Sími/Tel. 861 3840

We are located in the whale watching area at Reykjavík Old Harbour.

Departure times in: June - July - August
08.00 - 10.00 - 14.00

THREE Course Menu
Sushi - Lamb or fish - Chocolate Kr. 6.990-

魚 [RUB23] 海
FISH - MEAT - SUSHI

www.rub23.is

RUB23 | Aðalstræti 2 | 101 Reykjavík | Phone: +354 553 5323 | reykjavik@rub23.is
RUB23 | Kaupvangsstræti 6 | 600 Akureyri | Phone: +354 462 2223 | rub23@rub23.is

RE-04

The Golden Circle



Book now on your smartphone!

OUR APP IS FREE

You can easily buy your tour with us now!



Available!

in the Android Play Store & Apple App Store.

WE'LL TAKE YOU THERE!

ALL THE MOST EXCITING PLACES IN ICELAND

BOOK NOW

on www.re.is

by calling 580 5400

at your reception

Free WiFi

Hotspot on board our coaches.



More Tours available in our brochures

AND ON OUR WEBSITE WWW.RE.IS



RE-24 Gullfoss, Geysir & Þingvellir - Afternoon Tour

RE-62 Northern Lights Tour

SRE-74 The Golden Circle & Fontana Wellness

RE-17 The Wonders of Snæfellsnes

RE-05 Reykjavík Grand Excursion - City Tour

RE-15 South Shore Adventure

SRE-44 Gullfoss, Geysir & Langjökull Snowmobiling



RELAX AT the Blue Lagoon

From KEF Airport to Blue Lagoon

09:15, 12:45, 16:15 & 17:15

From Blue Lagoon to KEF Airport

12:15 & 14:15

From Reykjavik to Blue Lagoon

09:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00 & 18:00.

From Blue Lagoon to Reykjavik

11:15, 12:15, 13:15, 14:15, 15:15, 16:15, 17:15, 18:15, 19:15 & 21:15.

Bus fare to the Blue Lagoon & admission

Duration: Flexible.

Included: Return bus fare & admission to the Blue Lagoon.

Pick up: Up to 30 minutes before departure.

Adults (+16)

PRICE 8900 ISK

14-15 years

PRICE 4450 ISK

0-13 years

FREE OF CHARGE



flybus

For our very flexible schedule kindly consult our brochures or visit www.flybus.is

Fast, frequent & on schedule every day of the week.



BOOK NOW

on www.re.is

by calling 580 5400

at your reception



For our flexible schedule scan the QR code



BSÍ Bus Terminal
101 Reykjavík
+354 580 5400
main@re.is • www.re.is



Reykjavik Excursions
KYNNISFERÐIR

Film | Indie

Too Weird For A Studio

The Story Of A Filmmaker Making A Film About A Filmmaker

By Tómas Gabríel Benjamin



Elvar Gunnarson, the man behind 'Einn,' came up with the idea for the film whilst teaching at the Icelandic Film School. There he met several teachers and film makers who regretted not having pursued their dreams earlier in life, which in turn inspired the fictional character of Helgi Dagur whose god-complex leads him on a quest to get his masterpiece script turned into a blockbuster.

for a take, and the equipment was held together by tape, our motto was always 'If we don't have it, then we don't really need it,' Elvar explains.

Elvar also had to find a way to fund the film, assemble a crew, and then distribute the finished product, the last of which is causing him a real headache as he has no experience with marketing. For example, Elvar says it's tough for Icelandic films to compete for slots with Hollywood blockbusters.

Only So Many Ways To Dress Up A Problem

Much like the protagonist in Federico Fellini's '8 1/2,' who retreats into his fantasies when the film industry puts pressure on him, Helgi Dagur's personal demons come crawling out when his producers try to contaminate his vision.

Elvar wanted to give him a substance problem, but a drinking one was off the table. "Drowning your sorrows has been done to death," he says, "I didn't feel like I had anything to add to that, but smoking weed is a different matter."

Cannabis, Elvar says, is usually dealt with in two ways: stoner films where two idiots get into slapstick shenanigans like in 'Cheech And Chong,' or drama films where smoking acts as a gateway drug to total damnation like in 'Reefer Madness.' "We wanted to portray it half-way between the two," he says. "Not goofy, but not madly depressing either."

Elvar maintains that it's not a pro-smoking film though, as Helgi's circumstances are not improved by getting high. "It's a fun catalyst to fuel Helgi's breakdown," he says. He also believes cannabis smoking has not been talked about much in a realistic or intellectual manner in Icelandic films, which presents an opportunity to do something new.

Go Broke And Hopefully Go Big

Elvar Gunnarson believes going with a studio would have meant compromising his vision, so instead he decided to make 'Einn' himself—directing, writing, producing, acting in and making the soundtrack for the film. "If I had worked with a studio, I would never have gotten away with making this kind of cannabis film with a giant puffin. Society hasn't progressed any further than that, I'm afraid, and I didn't want to leave anything out," he says.

By going independent, Elvar avoided a lot of the problems Helgi runs into. There's nobody to rush him to meet deadlines, change his script, or tell him which subjects the film can explore. He had other problems though. Filming sporadically over a three-year-period presented more scheduling conflicts and he had child actors growing up, but with the right attitude these hitches were far from insurmountable. "Even if only half the cast and crew showed up

“

If I had worked with a studio, I would never have gotten away with making this kind of cannabis film with a giant puffin.

”

Leaving A Mark

A pastiche of fantasy and realism that goes from very serious and gloomy moments to trippy artsy scenes, 'Einn' does offer a very different kind of experience than most traditional films, and perhaps the cinema executives will see that in a positive light.

Elvar shows me a dream sequence in which Helgi goes to the beach where a bonfire illuminates people destroying a couch, and he stares in disbelief as his mentor, the puffin, gives him vague Nietzschean advice. In another grittier scene, Helgi is sitting on a bench lighting up a joint with his friends, only to be savagely beaten and robbed by two thugs.

"It is undeniably a film best suited for the 101 person, but that's a crowd that often doesn't go to the cinema as they just download films," Elvar says, referring to Reykjavík downtown residents. Having said that, Elvar is content with the work he's done. "I'd like for all kinds of people to enjoy the film, and I'd like to get paid," he says, "but I know that I made a film that was completely different. I've fulfilled my obligation as a young Icelandic filmmaker, making a big film for very little money, and in a way that hasn't been done before. It leaves me very satisfied to see this completed."

'Einn' ("One") follows the story of Helgi Dagur, an Icelandic filmmaker who struggles to maintain his artistic vision as greedy studio producers try to make him alter his film. With each compromise made, Helgi's personal life also changes, and soon a transvestite crime lord is pursuing him. Thankfully Helgi meets a flying two metre tall puffin that guides him through his cannabis-fuelled meltdown.



KOPAR

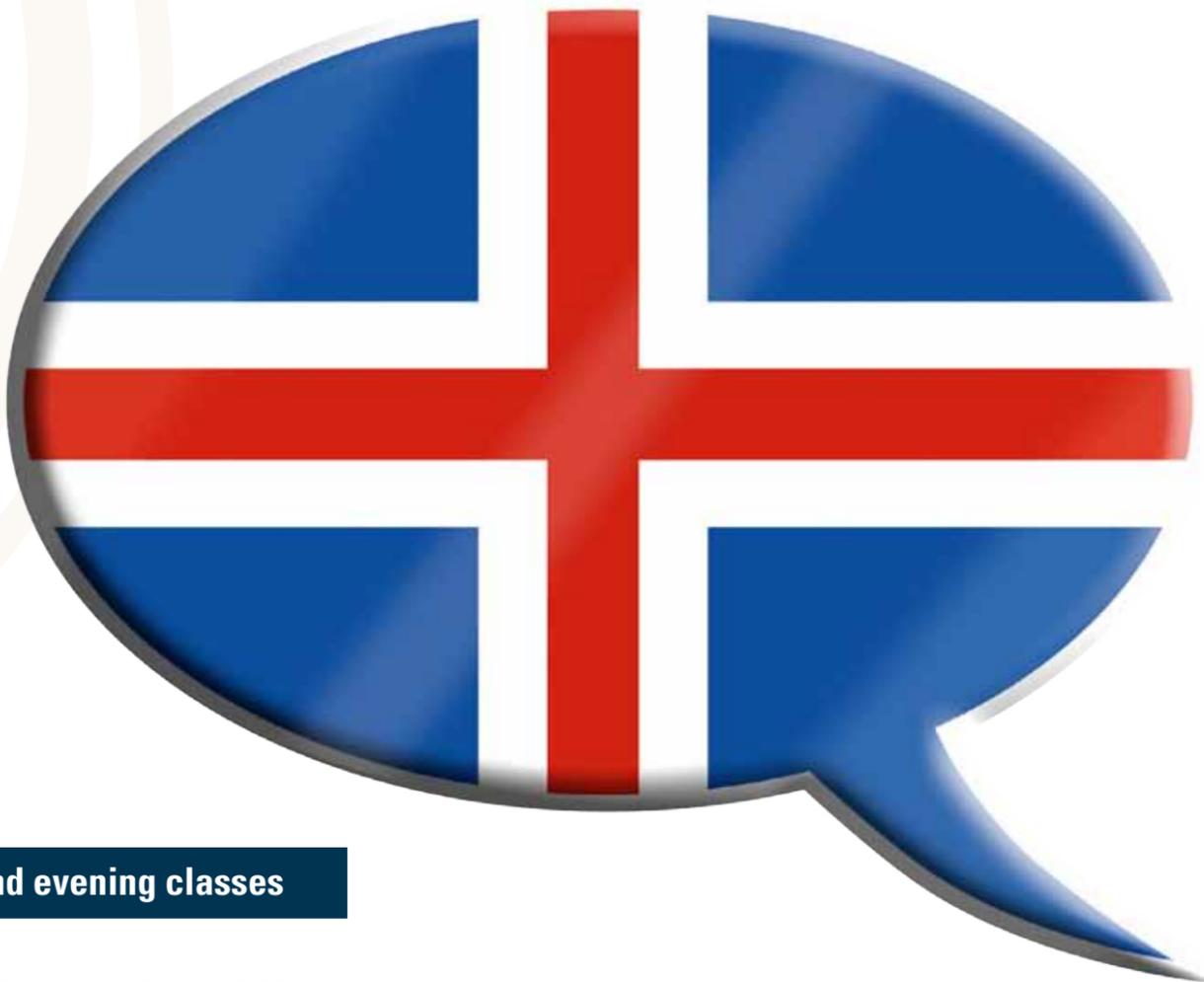
*A new restaurant by the old harbour.
We are proud of the Icelandic Rock Crab that is brought to us
straight from Hvalfjörður. A true taste of the ocean.*

Opening hours
Week days: 11:30 - 22:30 Weekends: 18:00 - 23:30

Kopar | Geirsgata 3 | Sími 567 2700 | info@koparrestaurant.is | koparrestaurant.is | facebook.com/koparrestaurant

Autumn 2013 LEARN ICELANDIC AT MÍMIR

Courses start September 16th



Morning and evening classes

Learning Icelandic at Mímir

- At Mímir everyone is welcome and the atmosphere is relaxed.
- Courses are based on the curriculum of Icelandic as a second language published by The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture.
- Solid training in comprehension, listening, reading, writing and speaking.
- Variety of courses, diverse teaching material and fun teaching methods.

[Register now](#)

Registration: tel: 580 1800 or at www.mimir.is

Course fee for those with a legal domicile in Iceland

- 60 class hours 38.500 IKR.
- 30 class hours 21.500 IKR.

Unions refund a part of the course fee.

Związki zawodowe zwracają część opłaty za kurs.

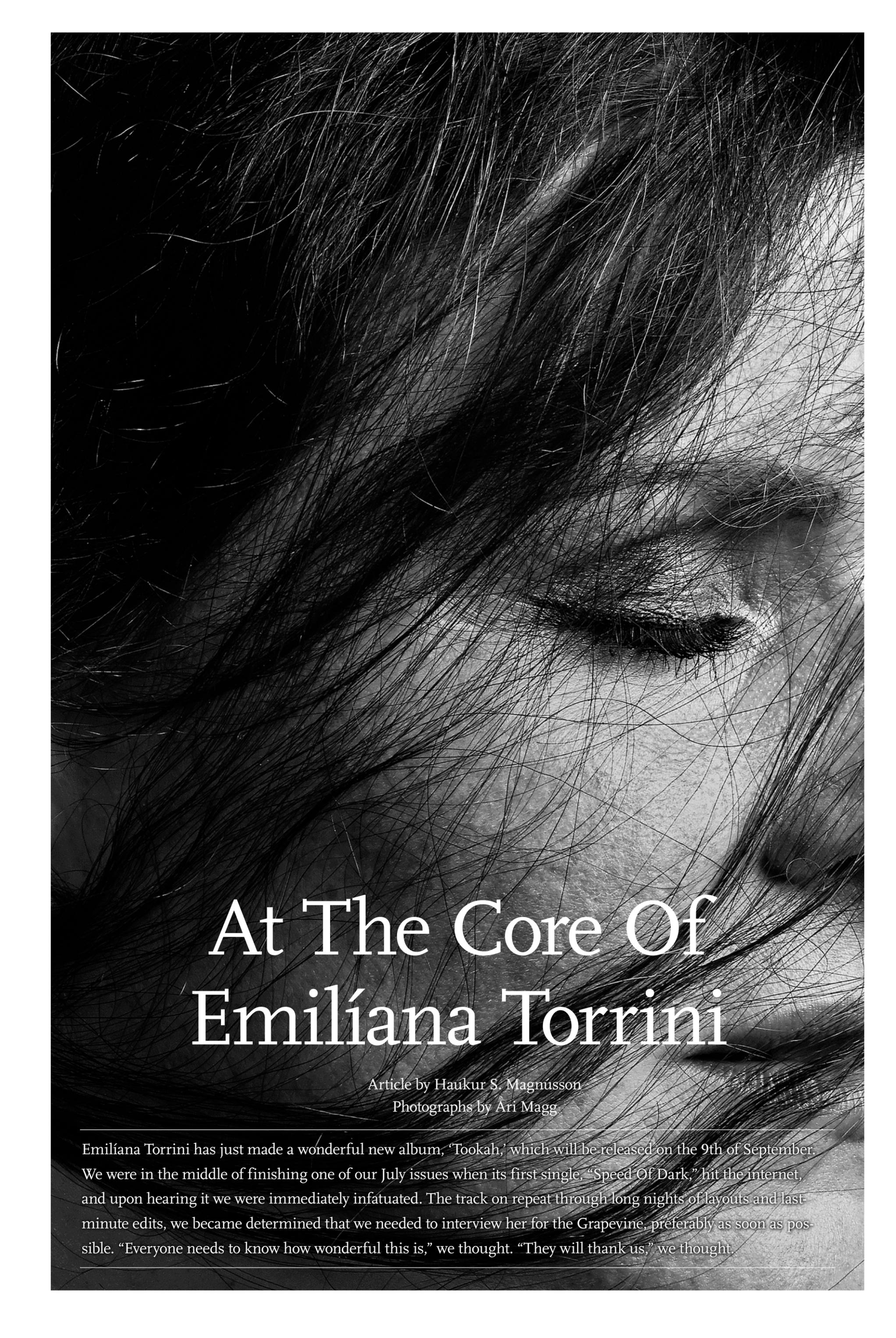
Tourism Service Course

Improve your skills

For those who want to work in the tourism sector.

2 month course, taught in english, begins October 21st.





At The Core Of Emiliana Torrini

Article by Haukur S. Magnússon
Photographs by Ari Magg

Emiliana Torrini has just made a wonderful new album, 'Tookah,' which will be released on the 9th of September. We were in the middle of finishing one of our July issues when its first single, "Speed Of Dark," hit the internet, and upon hearing it we were immediately infatuated. The track on repeat through long nights of layouts and last-minute edits, we became determined that we needed to interview her for the Grapevine, preferably as soon as possible. "Everyone needs to know how wonderful this is," we thought. "They will thank us," we thought.

Heritage fashion
ICELANDIC STYLE



Farmers Market

ICELAND

WWW.FARMERSMARKET.IS

REYKJAVÍK

FARMERS & FRIENDS Our flagship store - Hólmaslóð 2, Fishpacking District
GEYSIR Skólavörðustíg 16 **KRAUM** Aðalstræti 10 **HERRAFATAVERZLUN**
KORMÁKS & SKJALDAR Laugavegi 59 **MÝRIN** Kringlan Shopping Centre

OTHER LOCATIONS

GEYSIR Haukaáttur & Akureyri **HÚS HANDANNA** Egilsstaðir
KAUPMADURINN Ísafjörður **BLUE LAGOON**
DUTY FREE FASHION Keflavík Airport departure lounge

Amazing Full Day
Adventure from
Reykjavík!



Vatnajökull Voyager

Express day tour to Vatnajökull National Park from Reykjavík. Sightseeing, glacier walking on the famous Falljökull glacier, lunch, boat ride on Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon & waffle.

31.990 ISK per person.



Glacier Hike



Ice Climbing



Climbing



Cycling



Sightseeing



Boat Trip



glaciergeguides.is | info@glaciergeguides.is | + 354-571-2100 | Book your trip with Arctic Adventures on Laugavegur 11 Open 8am-10pm



H What followed was a frantic calling-up of everyone we know that could possibly get us in touch. Eventually, our efforts paid off, and we even scored an advance copy of ‘Tookah’ (initial review: it’s amazing. Plus).

We met with Emiliana at Kex Hostel on a Friday afternoon. Recently relocated to Iceland with her husband and her three-year-old son, she is rediscovering the groove of island life after spending more than a decade abroad, mostly in Brighton, UK. We share some wine, but only one glass, as she needs to pick up her kid after the talk is over.

We talk and talk, about her music, her lyrics, her life and times.

Your Metamorphosis

H I’ve been paying some attention to the lyrics of ‘Tookah’ while listening to the album.

One theme that feels prevalent throughout—a recurring concept—is metamorphosis, change. For instance, in the song “Autumn Sun,” which you’ve said was one of the first ones written for the album, you speak of “shedding skin”—and then you present an image of this strange woman seducing your husband, except it seems like that could be you... or maybe a new you?

E Yes, that one’s really fun. I had a huge internal debate about whether keeping it clear or not—it took me a week of days and nights to finish those lyrics. It’s really funny when you make these mysterious lyrics that are incredibly simple and fun, that then have this multiple meaning behind them.

The words for “Autumn Sun” were in fact a total nightmare to write. Dan [Carey, long-time Emiliana songwriter]

and I discussed the song back and forth, so much. When we were making [Emiliana’s previous album] ‘Me and Armini,’ we went to Iceland and wrote five songs over the course of a few days. It was a wonderful experience; the songs just flowed out of us. There’s something enchanting about my apartment in Reykjavík—writing music there, being creative, is usually a magical process.

We tried for that again, thinking that everything would just fall in place again, that simply going to Iceland would be enough, that we would return from the trip with a bunch of songs. So we go there, all ready to be engulfed by that magic, and it soon becomes apparent that we’ll only be writing that one song. And Dan turns sort of crazy and frustrated upon realizing this. I had not slept much after having my son and wasn’t functioning properly—I’d start falling asleep at ten in the evening, and he would just start frowning and yell, “wake

This is my graduation record. I’ve learned a whole lot over these past decades, and now I feel able to start really letting things out. I am really proud of ‘Tookah’— it tied together a lot of loose ends while allowing me to explore new things

up! Write those lyrics!” After years of working with me, he knows that if I don’t finish a song lyric on the spot, it might take me months to get back to it.

You see, the words are really important to me and they sometimes come really slowly, and I find the whole process of writing them hard. And I’ll want to escape. That’s when having a

collaborator or foreman, someone to drive you along, comes in handy.

Anyway, we thought a lot about the story of “Autumn Sun,” discussing and pondering all sorts of things. And I thought about getting older, what kind of experience that was, and entering the next stage in life. Mixed in with that story is fear. What’s my biggest fear today? It’s losing my fam-

ily. My family and my son, that unit that we've built and that I love so much.

H The downside of acquiring things is that you now have things to lose.

E Exactly. Fear. The story becomes about that woman that's standing by her kitchen window—me, really—doing the dishes while thinking back to herself as a young woman. She starts experiencing her age, youth is leaving her. At the same time a much younger woman knocks on her door and introduces herself, saying "I love your work." Our protagonist invites her in and she starts coming over more and more often, eventually becoming part of the household. The woman then starts seeing her life fall apart from out the window. The girl asks her husband if she can try on her wedding ring, while the woman keeps doing the dishes by her window, now watching the sparrows, imagining her life falling apart... it's a story.

Your Graduation

H Looking at your body of work, I've always imagined 'Love In The Time of Science' to be a kind of an introduction to you as a songwriter and musician, a discovery process. 'Fisherman's Woman' is then a document of sorrow, an expression of loss, while 'Me and Armini' is sort of a pop album, a reconstruction or admission that it's OK to have fun again after an extended period of grief. Then this new one comes along and I can't help feeling, like I said—and without wanting to force a narrative on you—that it's all about metamorphosis, about moving on to a new level...

E That is precisely what I've been saying, about moving on. This is my graduation record. I've learned a whole lot over these past decades, and now I feel able to start really letting things out. I am really proud of 'Tookah'—it tied together a lot of loose ends while allowing me to explore new things. All of a sudden I have this new identity that I need to explore and express. I've been changing. Just having a baby, that is an incredible experience. It invites such reflection.

H I've never experienced that, but I understand you're forced to contend with certain things you can safely ignore whilst only responsible for your own well-being...

Icelanders have always had permission to be so incredibly brave, because at the end of the day we have such a tight security net, we can always just go home if our efforts fail. This allows for a certain arrogance, an uncompromising stance. As an Icelandic musician, I have never felt the need to compromise—if things don't work out then I can just return home and go to school or something. There's no pressing need to "make it," it's never a life or death situation.

E Yeah. That's why I can also totally understand why people feel like they just can't do it sometimes. At one point, I was going mad. I was so tired. One night when my son wouldn't stop crying, I just wanted to throw him out the window. The poor baby kept roaring and I got more and more frustrated. I was so tired, all confused and out of it from lack of sleep. Then I held his hand and thought about religion [Emiliana was a Catholic]. I start thinking about baby Jesus. About the story of the Son of God and what that means? And it dawns on me that it's maybe not about the Son of God or anything so literal, the story is a symbol that signifies bringing a child into your life. Having a child is such an incredible opportunity. It's like having a guru in your own home. What can I learn? What is this person about to teach me? It is for sure going to hold the mirror up to your face so you might as well take the opportunity to have a good look. And just being incredibly open to that.

Split

The first thing I had to grasp after having a child was patience. And then there were all these theories floating around me, ideas I obsessed about, and a rift. This is reflected in 'Tookah.' When my boyfriend died [in the year 2000, Emiliana lost her boyfriend in a car accident—she subsequently stopped making music for over three years], I collapsed. I was a wreck for so many years. I couldn't get up. I experienced a split, a mental split, which can be really dangerous if I let it continue. And I'm a pretty visual person to begin with...

H Wait... and then there's two of you on the album cover?

E Yup.

H Wow.

E Everything I experience, I see it happen. I'm that kind of person, I visualise everything I feel. During my period of grief I saw myself tear up in two, I could see two contrasting profiles that represented a duality, with some sort of light core in the centre that connects the two different sides. And I started realising that I was living as two persons, and that I needed to unite them again, because otherwise I'd go insane. I worked hard at that, and eventually I did.

But this happened again when I gave birth to my son. Not the exact same rift, but a similar occurrence. It was the happiest time of my life, and I'd never been so in love, and at the same time, part of me was just... so low. And then there were two of me again, and I had work cut out.

I'm a big fan of Joseph Campbell [US mythologist, known for his work in comparative mythology and comparative religion] and I was watching one of his documentaries about symbolism around that time. He presents a statue that's thousands of years old and represents this split, this human duality, and the core. And that got me thinking, it was a realisation. What I had been experiencing is something ancient in us, an old archetype or idea that has followed man from his earliest moments. This is sort of how the idea behind 'Tookah' germinated, how the album started finally taking shape.

Working on this record was initially super complicated, until I made this discovery. At first, I wasn't connecting at all with what

two and a half years on the road under the most dire circumstances—everything was very poorly managed. After it ended, I went to see Dan.

We usually ground one another, but at that time we were both in a funny headspace. So we started jamming on this song. We finished it in one night, what you hear on the album is exactly what we made then. As a result, more songs began coming along and we're all of a sudden writing an album. But when I have to come up with words, I just can't. Some of the melodies were already there and I could not find the story or the words. I got so frustrated, I just started screeching.

For the first time ever, I was feeling an urgency to deliver an album. I have this new baby, and I feel like I need to provide, like I need to make a successful product immediately. 'THE BABY NEEDS TO EAT!' This became a priority, and I've never really thought about money or providing in the context of music, I've just made my music and been fortunate enough that I can eke out a living doing that. My priorities were all upside down at the time, and nothing was coming of it.

H You'd never thought of music in the context of making a living at that point? Even though it's been your only job as an adult?

E Nope. It's just been life. And this new anxiety, this feeling that I had to provide, it got heavy. Eventually, Dan just looked at me and said: "Wow. You're such a mess. You're not ready for this album. Just accept that."

It was such a relief, to hear this. The clouds lifted. I took a deep breath. Someone needed to say that. So we decide to ice the project for a while, to just hang out a couple of times a week to see if something interesting would happen.

Your Urge To Dance

And it did!

One day we're looking at YouTube videos and come across a clip about these two cousins in Brooklyn, Brian and Leon Dewan, who had made this amazing instrument called a Swarmatron, which is an amazing synthesizer that creates this wonderful swarming sound. It got sort of famous when Trent Reznor used it a lot on his soundtrack for 'The Social Network.'

H I heard it on the album, in one of the choruses. I thought my headphones were broken!

E It's in all the songs [laughs]. Just this wonderful, noisy drone. We were obsessed with their YouTube videos, these neat inventor types creating these hellish noises. Dan had already ordered a unit and while they were making it to order I came across an eight voice Oberheim. And I got equally fascinated with that.

I don't know what came over me, really. I just had to have an Oberheim, too. I start hanging out with people like my keyboard player Simon, and Matt Robertson, who are total synth nerds. We started playing around, beginning this journey in electronic music that eventually resulted in "Speed Of Dark." I recorded that with Dan at a time when I felt like I just needed to go out dancing to blow off steam. Maybe I should have just called up my girlfriends and done that? Instead, I ran to the studio and we made the song.

Your Core

It wound up sort of tying the album together. It all started falling into place. And everyone was asking me to give "Speed Of Dark" to some other singer. But I wouldn't hear it. "No, we're putting it on the album!"

I made the title track that same day. I don't know what it is about that song, but whenever I sing it, whenever I sing 'Tookah,' I see visions and feel blissful. It all turns holy.

That's also when the album cover became clear to me. It's symbolized in 'Tookah.' I wanted to represent this duality, and this core, which is the Tookah. It is what the Sufis spin for it is possibly the core of all



religions. It can be hard to connect with, but then you're out for a walk and you just feel this gentle gratefulness and happiness. I don't know. It's a feeling. I call it Tookah. It's my birth, my core.

We had a lot of fun making this album when we finally got rolling. We recorded many of the songs with a smoke machine and lasers to give the opposite vibe to the songs we were recording. Atmosphere is important.

We also worked with sound very visually too. I had a lot of things in mind. My mother's lake at Vatnsendi. The forests in Germany. The cenotes in Mexico. They all meld into one image; I visualise it as a frozen plane. And you don't see a person, just its breath. Then the song starts and this person is walking over the ice, across the lake, until a giant forest appears. She walks into the forest and this sound explodes, like what happens when you enter a redwood forest. A sound begins, a fear arises and the sky turns black. Then beautiful fireworks start exploding, it becomes bright out, they slowly turn into deep-sea creatures, jellyfish and neon coloured beasts. They guide your way home. These are the visuals for a song.

Was that complicated and weird? Do I sound nuts?

H No.

E No?

H Not really, no.

E No [laughs], that sounded crazy.

Your Own Way

H You've certainly created quite a bit by now. Looking back at your body of work as a realised solo artist, how do you view it?

E 'Fisherman's Woman' is my favourite album of mine aside from 'Tookah'. I thought of it as an act of sticking a flag in the moon, so to speak, staking my claim. I was still learning there, of course, but I had found a space where I was comfortable and wanted to explore. The first one ['Love In The Time Of Science'—although Emilia had two solo records under her belt when she released her international debut, she doesn't count them as part of her repertoire proper] was a mentor record, where I was learning how to write music. At first, I absolutely did not want to write music, but Derek [Birkett, head of Emilia's then-label One Little Indian] was pretty insistent. He told me: 'You have to write your own music! How else are you going to survive? You just have to do it.' I was all, "no! I'm a singer!"

I eventually relented and agreed to try it out, but it wasn't really working out. I was meeting songwriters that I had nothing on. There I was, all blue-eyed and wet behind the ears, being paired up with some really big, experienced people from the world of music. I only knew how to work on instinct, I couldn't find the chords that are needed for songwriting, I plainly didn't

get it. It wasn't until I met up with Eg [White, respected UK pop songwriter, works with people such as Pink, Kylie Minogue and Florence + The Machine] that I really started learning. He was messy and instinctual and worked in a tiny dirty studio full of instruments in some derelict units. It felt more natural to me than the sterile studios.

When it came to 'Fisherman's Woman,' I had finally found my own way to write music, I was able to enter this flow...

H It's very concise and to the point record, very integral.

E And it has an ongoing theme, too. Meanwhile, with 'Me And Armini,' we sort of wanted let it all out, whatever came to us. We decided that it was going to be an in-between record. I call it the washingmachine record.

Your Blessing

H And then it spawns this monster hit, "Jungle Drum," and you wind up having to tour like a motherfucker...

E That song is such an animal, too! It's like the Honey Monster song or something. That this was the one to break through was interesting for me, it taught me a lesson. I was more invested in, say, a song like "Beggar's Prayer," one of those songs that's a bit more crafted and laboured over. We churned out "Jungle Drum" in like ten minutes.

That was kind of good for me. I had this stick up my ass that needed removing. I was maybe taking the music too seriously and not having enough fun with it. And then this tune that I had thought of as sort of a joke becomes a hit, that's the universe playing a brilliant joke on me. Having laboured and strived and lost sleep over lyrics and composition and the like, and then the simplistic "fun" song is the one that people connect with. That was a great lesson.

H It's kind of catchy though. You really didn't expect it to become popular?

E No, I didn't expect that at all. Especially by the time it did. The album was kind of getting lost, we weren't getting a lot of press and I had sort of resigned myself to just start work on the next one when some German TV model competition or something—I haven't watched TV since I was eighteen—used it for a catwalk scene. All of the sudden, the phone lines exploded, everyone wanted to know what song it is and where they can buy it. I went to Germany, and of course no one recognised me. But they all knew the song. I'd be sitting at Oktoberfest, drinking a beer, and the entire crowd would be singing 'Jungle Drum,' waving their huge beer mugs around. That was surreal.

In the end, the song's success proved to be a great blessing for me, as the resulting income enabled me to stay home with my son for two years and get to know him.

H You've said that you wrote "Jungle Drum" was meant as a present for your son's father while the two of you were courting—and then it turns out to make a big difference when he gets born. It's clearly a meaningful song for you, despite how quickly it came about. And then it becomes the theme song for a promotional campaign about Iceland...

E Yeah, the economic collapse happened, and then Eyjafjallajökull wreaked its havoc. Things were starting to seem pretty bad to the outside world, there was a lot of hype and friends were constantly calling me up to see if I was OK. I was actually more than OK, I felt the time of the eruption was magical, there were no planes flying above the Brighton sky, the peace that brought was just beautiful.

So anyway, I'm in the UK and I get this call asking if I want to give my song to this 'Inspired by Iceland' campaign. I really liked the idea, I thought it was kind of classic Iceland. A catastrophe of sorts happens, and people just pull up their sleeves and try to get things in order. There's not an ounce of passivity. So I was all for it.

They also wanted me to star in the video, actually, but I thought that would be a bit much, so I declined. But it was a really fun and beautiful campaign, that had a positive effect on a lot of people. And of course appearing in Áramótas-kaupið [Iceland's annual end-of-year comedy revue] was the best thing that's ever happened to me, my proudest moment ever.

Your Safety Net

H Speaking of the collapse, how did you experience that while living abroad?

E To me it seemed that Icelanders maybe felt like their safety net had evaporated. I felt rage and insecurity in the air, and confusion. Getting a handle on what was actually happening was difficult, especially since I lived in Brighton at the time. Still, I was very aware that some of the people around me were losing everything; there was a lot of fear and uncertainty in the air.

My experience of the collapse was coloured by this. One way it affected me personally, that struck me as really odd, is that all of the sudden I became like the rest of the people in England. Icelanders have always had permission to be so incredibly brave, because at the end of the day we have such a tight security net, we can always just go home if our efforts fail. This allows for a certain arrogance, an uncompromising stance. As an Icelandic musician, I have never felt the need to compromise—if things don't work out then I can just return home and go to school or something. There's no pressing need to "make it," it's never a life or death situation. So I can just play around making music if that strikes my fancy, and if those efforts fail I'm in a pretty good place regardless.

H So you're saying, as an internationally successful recording artist that just released her fourth 'proper' album, that you're just "playing around?"

E Yeah, that's the heart of the matter. Like I mentioned earlier, I felt now for the first time a need to create an income, because of my family and maybe because it seemed for a while like the safety net had vanished. But, yeah. I'm playing around.

H This is interesting. People often ask me, "why does tiny Iceland have so many great bands and musicians?" And I usually tell them something along the lines of: "For most people in Iceland, music is not a job. And this allows for a certain freedom and flexibility..."

E Yes, I take this freedom really seriously and protect it. That's how I've approached my work. But this freedom also makes us judgmental towards other musicians and bands, claiming they "sold out" and whatnot. We're not taking into account that these people are just one of maybe sixty million in their country, and they just have to take every opportunity that presents itself, there is a real threat of poverty and falling through the cracks. Whereas we can just sort of record a tape in our living room and take it over to Ási at Smekkleysa.

There's a hunger and a resulting discipline that we maybe haven't known here in Iceland. We are spoiled, and we feel we have the right to all kinds of things. In the global context, being born in Iceland is probably the luckiest you can get. After travelling the world, I am convinced of this.

--

Who Is Emiliana Torriini?

Casual fans of music will know Emilia Torriini from the track "Jungle Drum," which was an unexpected hit in 2009 (and was subsequently drafted in for the Inspired by Iceland campaign—it's the one everyone dances to while prancing around in Iceland's nature). Others might have heard Emilia—without even knowing it—in songs she has co-written for other artists, like Kylie Minogue's number one hit "Slow." While those songs are good and well, they are hardly representative of the singer/songwriter's body of work, which bears close examination.

She became a star in Iceland in the mid-'90s, singing everywhere she could, from performing covers at hotel bars to starring in musicals like "Hair" and "Stone Free." She fronted a successful rock band, and independently released two albums of cover songs (currently out of print, with no plans to reissue) that were bona fide hits, shifting thousands of copies and winning her legions of rabid fans.

Leaving a fruitful career behind, she relocated to London in the late '90s, learned how to write songs and started building what is now an extremely successful solo career. Her first 'proper' album, 1999's 'Love In The Time Of Science,' set the stage, while the follow-up, the haunting 'Fisherman's Woman,' was widely hailed as a masterpiece (one that has absolutely withstood the test of time). 'Me And Armini,' with its infectious "Jungle Drum," brought mainstream success and a taxing world tour.

And now we have 'Tookah.'

H At the dawn of your career in Iceland in the mid-'90s, you sang all over the place. Aside from your album with grunge-rock band Spoon and the two solo cover LPs, you were also part of GusGus' first iteration...

E I was part of the band for the first album. Then, when they wanted to go abroad, I didn't feel ready to leave Iceland, so I left the band instead. At the time, I was sort of discovering that I had a voice and that I could sing, so I basically said yes to everything. Every request. I sang at restaurants and bars and in musicals and with bands. I was young and innocent, just seventeen, and was having the best time ever. One time, after a fun show with my rock band, Spoon [note: not the US band of the same name], this guy in a suit comes up and offers me a multi-million ISK contract. He wants to bring me to the States and groom me into a pop star. I seriously considered, and we negotiated for a while but eventually I just bailed on the whole thing. I didn't want to be caged. I just wanted to sing.

So I did.

Article by: Haukur S. Magnússon
 Photographer: Ari Magg
 Makeup: Frida Maria using MAC Cosmetics, Hair: Frida Maria using Label.m
 Styled by: Auður Karitas Ásgeirsdóttir
 Assistant: Axel Sigurðarson
 Interview transcribed by: Tómas Gabriel Benjamin



The real outdoor specialist store

Hiking, trekking or camping?

We have the right equipment!



ARCTERYX



DAKINE



Camping equipment rental!

Laugavegur 11 Reykjavík

Kringlan 7 Reykjavík

Reykjavíkurvegur 64 Hafnarfjörður

shoes
clothing
tents

sleeping bags
mattresses

stoves

pots and pans
gas and fuel etc.

We work closely with guides from:



3 shops: Kringlan 7 | Laugavegur 11 | Reykjavíkurvegur 64 | Tel: 510 9505 | fjallakofinn.is



Marching On A Road To Nowhere

by Davíð Roach Gunnarsson



© Magnús Andersen

18
AUGUST

Háskólabíó

www.lovethegiant.com

CONCERT
REVIEW

Anyone who's seen the Talking Heads' phenomenal concert film 'Stop Making Sense' knows that David Byrne does not fuck around when it comes to live shows. He doesn't look at them as an extension or a promotional vehicle for a studio record but as a distinctive art form. That was evident at his recent performance with St. Vincent, with every moment seeming directly planned for the stage at Reykjavík's Háskólabíó.

When I arrived, beams of light were aimed at instruments that had been meticulously placed on the stage floor, ready for the nine-person brass band that marched in and picked them up—the bassoon, trumpet, woodwind, tuba, various nationalities of horns and others that I can't name. There was also a keyboardist and a drummer, but no bassist (but who needs a bass when you have a tuba anyway?).

Enter The Dynamic Duo

Then the dynamic duo greeted the audience, David Byrne with his silky white hair, wearing a white suit, and the gorgeous Annie Clark, aka St. Vincent. Byrne noted that the last time he and Clark were in Iceland, they both had dark hair, but that had now changed but for different reasons.

They started with the bouncy, swinging brass hook from "Who," the first song from 'Love This Giant,' their excellent collaborative album released last year. Byrne's voice has lost none of its charming tension over the years and Clark's cooing matched it well as they playfully traded lines over some thick horn riffs.

Right from the get-go you could see that this was not a still

concert with dull session players. They played most of the songs from 'Love This Giant' and the left-field brass oriented pop was illuminated by the energetic band's performance. The multi-gender/racial brass section were always moving around, doing choreographed dance routines, walking in circles around the singers, or splitting up into two teams, standing on each side of the stage like they were in a brass-off.

There was never a dull moment on the stage and the two singers were glowing with charisma. A master of the slightly off-kilter dance, David Byrne did the mime to a sublime take on the Talking Heads classic, "This Must Be The Place," and he did a step dance to another.

Clark's doll-like dance routines were adorable and her distinctive guitar playing dominated songs and sometimes transmuted into ear-splitting solos. Her solo material, like "Cheerleader," when all the brass players lay scattered on the ground like they were relaxing or taking a nap while they were blowing their horns, were some of the most memorable.

There was no clash of egos though, with each of them stepping off to the sidelines and dancing beside the brass players during the other's solo performance. The lighting was also top notch,

often projecting red and black shadow figures of the band members onto the wall, which could only be described as Kraftwerk-esque.

Byrne and Clark shared stories of mutual admiration and playful banter between songs and Byrne even dedicated one song to the Higgs particle.

Encore Upon Encore

Although obviously planned and choreographed, the setup never felt forced or strained. Byrne and Clark shared stories of mutual admiration and playful banter between songs and Byrne even dedicated one song to the Higgs particle. And at one point, a theremin was brought to the stage and the pair played it by throwing punches and kicks in each other's direction with the instrument in the middle.

After about 90 minutes they left the stage, but received a standing ovation and came back to perform St. Vincent's "Cruel" before diving into crowd pleaser "Burning Down The House," which immediately had people out of their seats and dancing.

Already standing and still hungry for more, the crowd got them to do a second encore that ended with "Road To Nowhere," whose marching rhythm was perfectly suited for the large brass section. The whole thing was as much visual arts as music and a celebration of all things quirky, eccentric and stylish.

Buy directly from the people who make them



...or knit them yourself

All you need in one place

Handknitting Association of Iceland



• Skólavörðustígur 19
tel.: (+354) 552 1890

SWEATERS AND SOUVENIERS, NO KNITTING MATERIAL

• Radisson Blu, Hótel SAGA
tel.: (+354) 562 4788

• Laugavegur 64
tel.: (+354) 562 1890

www.handknit.is



CHAQWA

VÍKING

Stofan Café

Breakfast everyday.

Best new coffeeshouse

-Reykjavík Grapevine 2012

Best place to read a book

-Reykjavík Grapevine 2012

Certificate of Excellence

Winner of 2013

-Tripadvisor



Adalstræti 7 s. 567-1881



Lækjarkreppa

Icelandic Cuisine



Scan QR Code for more information.



Lækjarkreppa is a classic Icelandic Restaurant situated in heart of old Reykjavík, Lækjarkreppa specialises in Icelandic cuisine with a la carte menu and first rate service.

Bankastræti 2 - 101 Reykjavík - Tel. (+354) 551 4430
info@laekjarkreppa.is - www.laekjarkreppa.is

Taste the best of Iceland...

... with a spanish undertone

Icelandic Gourmet Fiest

Starts with a shot of the infamous Icelandic spirit Brennivín

Than 6 delicious Icelandic tapas:

Smoked puffin with blueberry "brennivín" sauce

Icelandic sea-trout with peppers-salsa

Lobster tails baked in garlic

Pan-fried line caught blue ling with lobster-sauce

Grilled Icelandic lamb Samfaina

Minke Whale with cranberry & malt-sauce

To finish our famous Desert:

White chocolate "Skyr" mousse with passion fruit coulis

5.990 ikr.



The only kitchen in Reykjavík open

to 23:30 on weekdays and 01:00 on weekends



RESTAURANT- BAR

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

- THIS IS -

ICELANDIC INDIE MUSIC

Includes hit singles by

OF MONSTERS AND MEN | RETRO STEFSON | FM BELFAST | KIRIYAMA FAMILY | MOSES HIGHTOWER
OJBA RASTA | SYKUR | TILBURY | MAMMÚT | AGENT FRESCO | ENSÍMI | LOCKERBIE

Available in all good record stores

Things You Can't Control

By Atli Bollason

"Two years ago, on culture night, this guy passed the stage where we were soundchecking and recorded what he heard onto his phone. Throughout his stay in Iceland, he kept hearing our song over the radio and in the end he e-mailed the clip to his friend who was the programming director for this radio station in Philadelphia and they started playing the song too."



© Roger Kisby

Of Monsters And Men Concert

Vífilsstaðatún park in Garðabær **ISK** Free Admission

✓ Saturday, August 31

This is how the very young-looking and curly-haired Brynjar Leifsson, guitarist from Of Monsters And Men, describes the humble beginnings of their success. 'The song' is called "Little Talks" and it is one of the best-selling singles ever to have come out of Iceland: quintuple-platinum in Australia, nearly triple-platinum in the USA and a full-triple platinum in Canada. Three and a half million copies sold in all. Sold—as in paid for with money, a rarity when it comes to music these days. One wonders how many tens of millions have actually heard their music and one's head starts to rapidly spin.

Nanna Bryndís Hilmarsdóttir, the somewhat Björk-looking lead singer and front of the band, nods in confirmation of Brynjar's story. "It's pretty absurd thinking about the fact that if we wouldn't have played that very concert, things might not have turned out this way at all. Luck is definitely a factor in success, being the right person in the right place at the right moment."

Fame

Call it what you will, but the fact remains: Of Monsters And Men have played 230 shows in the last eighteen months. This includes performances at Glastonbury, Coachella, Lollapalooza, Bonnaroo, T in the Park, Roskilde and every other damn festi-

val in the world, and their own shows to crowds as big as 12,000. They've travelled all over and cite Japan and Brazil as the most otherworldly destinations. They're big. These people are famous. Their manager even accompanies them to the interview at a Reykjavík downtown café.

Nevertheless, Brynjar and Nanna are very down to earth and have interests outside of music. Nanna Bryndís is an amateur photographer and Brynjar has been learning how to fly. Even with their music careers budding like crazy they say they'd perhaps like to pursue these other avenues or even go back to school in the next few years. Just like anyone.

That's not to say that they don't feel the fame. "By now, we've met a few of these 'superfans.' It's pretty strange. They know things about me that they really shouldn't and may have dug up pictures of me from some party I attended when I was sixteen," Brynjar says.

"This girl came up to me and asked me to write a quote from one of our lyrics onto her arm. Later, she sent me a photograph of the quote tattooed onto her arm, in my handwriting. It's pretty weird to have written something onto someone's arm and know that it's going to stay there forever. But it looked pretty cool," adds Nanna and continues:

"I'm starting to realise a bit now that I must keep my guard in a way.

For example, I really like Instagram, just posting fun photos. And I have a three-year-old sister that I just want to take photos of all day but I'm coming to understand that it may be a bit strange for some John in America to obsess over photos of my baby sister."

(At which point Brynjar relates his anecdote of rubbing shoulders with the stars. "Josh Homme [from Queens of the Stone Age] tried to throw me out of a bar. He didn't believe that I was 22 and yelled at me across the place. But he was chill once he got to know the truth.")

Not all of the interest generated online and in the media is positive. "I used to read what's written about us but I don't anymore," Nanna says. "It's so odd for some dude downtown to have an opinion of you even though you never met."

Brynjar agrees. "There was this guy that just crapped all over us on his blog. He's entitled to his opinion but he doesn't need to be nasty. That shit is online; we're reading it, you know."

"If people say they don't appreciate the music that's cool. There's a lot of music out there that I consider garbage. It's when things get personal and people talk about something completely different from the music. You just want to be everyone's friend, but I guess this sort of stuff comes with the job," says Nanna straightforwardly.

Following Up

Of Monsters And Men are home. They're playing a free outdoor show in their hometown Garðabær on Saturday, August 31. "We played a free show in Hljómskálagarðurinn last summer and loved to see how many people showed up. It was really fun so now we want to play this show as a way of saying thank you for all of the support."

There are a few gigs scheduled abroad but they'll spend most of the coming months writing and rehearsing before entering the studio next summer or fall to record their second album. That must be stressful.

"I think the album will suffer if we stress ourselves over making it. We made our last record out of complete innocence and then it became something we never could've imagined. We want to hold on to this feeling of innocence. Of course there is pressure: There are people waiting for the album and they will be critical. They'll say: 'that's not what I wanted to hear' or 'that's not what I expected' or 'what were you guys thinking?' But if you're listening to those voices you're being fake. As long as you do what you feel like and stay true to your own conviction, you can be happy," Nanna says.

Brynjar echoes her sentiments: "I wouldn't exactly die if everyone hated our next album. Yeah, it would suck, but there are just so many things you can't control."

I ask them whether they feel any pressure from their label, Universal Music, in terms of the sound on their next album, being as it is a major label that has invested copious amounts of money in the project.

"That's an interesting point," Nanna says and admits to never having thought about it. "But I think we're too stubborn to let that affect us. Then, of course, we've never recorded with a label before. We were without a contract when we made our first album. We recorded that album without much help and that worked out pretty well. There seems to be an understanding between us [and the label]. They trust us."

Of Monsters And Men are now well known for their folksy sound. But that may be changing soon. "At least we say we're going to lay the acoustic guitars to rest. The whole band's got an electric guitar now."

"There's only going to be feedback," Brynjar says and laughs. "When we started out we were more shy. The music has changed a lot. There's more overdrive now. More rock'n'roll."

THEY'RE PLAYING A FREE SHOW!

Of Monsters And Men are playing a free outdoor show with Hide Your Kids, Moses Hightower and Mugison at Vífilisstaðatún in Garðabær on Saturday, August 31.

Line-up:

- 17:00 Site opens
- 18:00 Hide Your Kids
- 18:30 Moses Hightower
- 19:30 Mugison
- 20:40 Of Monsters And Men
- 22:00 Closing

A note on parking:

No traffic will be allowed in or around Vífilisstaðatún. Parking can be found in the Kauptún lot by IKEA (Kauptún 4, 210 Garðabær). There will be free shuttle service with Strætó to and from Vífilisstaðatún starting at 17:00 and ending at 23:00.

Additional parking can be found at Mjódd (Þönglabakki 4, 109 Reykjavík). There will be free shuttle service to and from Vífilisstaðatún starting at 17:00 and ending at 23:00.

Autumn Horror

By Óli Dóri and Davíð Roach Gunnarsson

To begin with, the band Two Step Horror—duo Þórður Grímsson and Anna Margrét Björnsson—have just released two new songs on Soundcloud that are well worth your time and attention. Their 2011 debut, 'Living Room Music,' was full of slow burning darkwave with twanging guitars, ghostly vocals and a healthy dose of drone and feedback, and this new material doesn't stray too far from that signature sound.

The first, "Somebody sleeping," is a moody instrumental track with atmospheric guitars drifting in and out of the mix. The second is a cover of "Lonesome Town," originally a hit single performed by Ricky Nelson in 1958. Two Step Horror's take is like a modern rockabilly anthem with echoing snare drums, surf-y guitar and treated vocals that would be perfect on the soundtrack to a David Lynch or Jim Jarmusch film. They also recently started to perform live so look out for their live shows in the near future.

Singer songwriter Snorri Helgason has just released a new song aptly titled "Summer is almost gone." It's a very retro sounding and cosy folk tune with some sweet acoustic

strumming and warm keys. It'll be a great song to go with a cup of hot chocolate and a warm blanket in the upcoming autumn.

When the autumn arrives you can at least begin to look forward to the annual Iceland Airwaves festival. Although it isn't exactly around the corner, it's at least around the block—end of October, beginning of November—and you should buy a ticket for it immediately if you haven't already, as it was sold out around this time last year.

Of the last batch of artists announced, we are especially psyched about Jon Hopkins, whose beautiful ambient-techno album, 'Immunity,' is so far one of the best records of the year in our opinion. Post-punk Savages have also been raising a lot of hell this year and have a reputation for very energetic performances.

Finally, we would like to thank Útidúr, Just Another Snake Cult and everybody who showed up to Straum's first birthday celebration at Harlem on the August 22. It was a blast of atomic proportions.

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



Visit Iceland's largest network of art museums in three unique buildings

Reykjavík ART Museum

Open Daily

www.artmuseum.is
Tel: (354) 590 1200

Listasafn Reykjavíkur
Reykjavík Art Museum

One Ticket - Three Museums

Hafnarhús
Tryggvagata 17,
101 Rvk.
Open 10-17
Thursdays 10-20

Kjarvalsstaðir
Flókagata, 105 Rvk.
Open 10-17

Ásmundarsafn
Sigtún, 105 Rvk.
May-Sept.:
Open 10-17
Okt.-Apr.:
Open 13-17

Guided tour in English available every Friday at 11am. in June, July and August at Kjarvalsstaðir

HEALTHY EATING
VEGETARIAN
RAW FOOD
RESTAURANT
JUICE BAR

REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE
**BEST
VEGETARIAN
2011 · 2012
& 2013**

This is Solla Eiriksdottir, the winner of Best Gourmet Raw Chef and Best Simple Raw Chef in the 2011 and 2012 "Best of Raw" Awards. Come and try out one of her great dishes at her restaurant Gló.

Reykjavík · Engjateigur 19 and Laugavegur 20b · Hafnarfjörður · Strandgata 34 · www.glo.is

Heavenly pizzas!

Home delivery

See our menu at www.gamlasmidjan.is

www.gamlasmidjan.is

tel. 578 8555

Lækjargata 8

Opening hours:

mon-thu 11:30-23
fri 11:30-06
sat 12-06
& sun 12-23

Come For The Glaciers, Stay For The Video Art

By Jacqueline Breen



© Emma Stibbon

Artist residencies are springing up all over Iceland, and more international artists are visiting each year. Jacqueline Breen finds out what they're finger-painting...

Most people in Skagaströnd fish. There are some marine biologists, some others working the gas station-slash-burger joint and two friendly women in the post office. And, for now, there is one video and performance artist orchestrating an international dance lesson across the World Wide Web.

Emily O'Connor recently landed in Skagaströnd to undergo a one-month artistic residency. Stepping off the little bus on Iceland's windy north-west coast, the 26-year-old Australian looked around and thought: 'Wow. Ok.'

"I'm just walking along the street laughing all the time because it's so good," she says of her new home. Skagaströnd is a coastal fishing and trade port, and the artistic residents have nestled in to an old fishing plant. On her first day Emily charged up the nearest mountain and stared out over a moody, changeable ocean. "I've never had such a physical and emotional reaction to a place as I do here," Emily says, grinning and shaking her head. "I can't explain it. The landscape just does something to you."

The Residency Run-Down

Roughly three hundred artistic types like Emily land in Iceland each year to undergo residencies, drifting in from Australia, America, India and everywhere else. The two biggest residencies are SÍM, in Reykjavík, and Nes, in Skagaströnd, and there are smaller ones scattered all over the place.

The idea is to offer living and working space for artists to meet new people, form new ideas and produce all kinds of work. Residencies

usually last between one and six months, and although most artists pay a fee, some receive grants to cover costs.

Some residencies request finished art works and encourage artists to contribute by hosting open days or workshops. Others simply offer space and time to think and create. The bigger residencies are great for collaboration while smaller ones, like Herhúsið in Siglufjörður (which hosts just one isolated artist at a time), are better for quiet contemplation.

Creating Dialogue

"We have a boom in residencies right now," says Kristjana Rós Guðjohnsen, who works at Visit Iceland. Within that marketing machine, Kristjana works to promote art and culture. She reckons there are roughly 11 residencies running at present, but says that the number fluctuates—their popularity is growing, and informal artist-run initiatives can pop up quite quickly. Kristjana has worked at Reykjavík's SÍM and is an artist herself, so she knows her way around a paintbrush. These days she has her own studio in SÍM, just one floor below the foreigners.

"SÍM is just one big apartment downtown," Kristjana says, "and the house is packed." Iceland's oldest residency, SÍM opened in 2002 with just one resident. Today it welcomes thirteen international artists each month. The residents live on the fourth floor, and there are 44 studios below for both international and local artists. This tiny glittery galaxy of creativity is an ideal place for local and international artists to hang out and talk shop. "It can be really nice

to go upstairs and just talk to the residency artists," Kristjana tells me. "They're very welcoming, there's no door—you just go upstairs and say hi."

This, of course, was all part of the plan—SÍM was designed to create dialogue. "It's better today, but Iceland used to be quite isolated," Kristjana says. Founders Ingibjörg Gunnlaugsdóttir and Áslaug Thorlacius conceptualised the residency as an outstretched hand to the outside world. "It was a huge asset for artists and also society to get foreign artists to come to Iceland and learn from each other," Kristjana continues. The residency holds artist talks at the beginning of each month and exhibitions at the end, and Kristjana says local artists and local everythings turn up interested and supportive.

Well, Duh...Iceland's Appeal

Ask anyone why they chose to come to Iceland and they're likely to point at anything, in any direction, and say "well, duh." Ask the artistic residents and they'll do the same, but they went into a bit more detail for us. The dramatic landscape made everyone's list, and totally seduced British fine artist Emma Stibbon. "The preoccupying theme to my work is landscape in transition," Emma says, and here she has plenty of volcanoes, glaciers and transatlantic rifts to keep her canvases full of dramatic black-and-white sketches.

Emily O'Connor liked the island's isolation. "I didn't want it to be another Sydney project," she says of her dance piece. She could feasibly create the same work back home in Australia, but wanted to expand her horizons, artistically and geographically. And, of course, residencies help ease the Icelandic strain on the wallet. Artists are rarely rolling in krónur, and residencies make affordable what might be otherwise impossible. "It really gives artists a great opportunity to be here on a budget," says Emma Stibbon. Like many travellers she fell hard for Iceland on her first trip, but recognised that love don't come for free. A one-month residency at Lifthús in Ólafsfjörður was, for Emma, financially within reach.

And it seems the residencies are good for Iceland's wallet as well; their contribution to tourism revenue is significant, and growing. The small scale's easy to see: "Well, the artists all buy plane tickets!" says Kristveig Halldórsdóttir who, along with Alda Sigurðardóttir, runs the Gullkistan residency in Laugarvatn. The bigger picture is harder to quantify, but the trickle-down effect is obvious: more activity means more people buying more things across Iceland. Kristjana from Visit Iceland says that

almost 40% of international visitors cite art and culture as their key reason for coming.

Selling It To The World

It's a funny old world, economically. Art and culture normally struggle in tough financial times, so I was surprised to find that many of the residencies opened their doors after 2008. These artists just want to tell me about the bright side of 2008. "During the crisis the króna fell 50%, and that meant it was easier for foreigners to come," says Kristveig from Gullkistan. Kristjana also sees a silver lining painted around the economic cloud, and says the crisis reenergised Icelandic creativity. "Before the crisis people were too busy, and time was money," she tells me, "and now all of a sudden artists had an opportunity to do things they couldn't do before. The creative industry has actually blossomed after the crisis."

All this might be old news to the average Icelander. Many are familiar with the residencies because they themselves often wind up in the frames. A resident artist in Skagaströnd recently directed an interactive theatre piece staged by the townspeople, and local children can now make a mean kite thanks to a residency workshop. In fact, Emily's worried her new neighbours are already arted out. "I've got to ask some of them to be in my piece," she tells me. "I'm worried they're all just thinking 'oh, another bloody artist.'"

For now the residency coordinators are brainstorming ways to work better together, and there are various plans for expansion.

Kristveig and Alda are working to secure Gullkistan in a permanent home in an old school building, and the

“Before the crisis people were too busy, and time was money, and now all of a sudden artists had an opportunity to do things they couldn't do before. The creative industry has actually blossomed after the crisis.”

Nordanbal crew at Hrísey is hosting artists celebrating Akureyri's 151st anniversary this year. The residencies' profile is on the rise politically as well. Kristjana's position at Visit Iceland was only created earlier this year, which suggests Iceland's image-makers see some real potential in this whole 'art' thing.

And they say creativity is contagious. Skagaströnd's mayor recently took his kids along to Nes for that kite-making workshop, and said the residencies were inspiring his neighbours to embrace creativity. Who knows—it might not be too long before all those Skagaströnd fishermen start whipping up video art in their spare time.



Your local car rental around Iceland

www.holdur.is

Competitive rates and great variety of new cars wherever you're travelling.

16 Europcar locations in Iceland



Europcar Reykjavik Reservations centre:
Tel. +(354) 568 6915



Reykjavík • Keflavík • Akureyri • Ólafsvík • Patreksfjörður • Ísafjörður • Sauðárkrúkur • Húsavík • Þórshöfn • Vopnafjörður • Egilsstaðir • Neskaupstaður • Höfn • Vestmannaeyjar • Selfoss • Hveragerði

H.M. Markaðsáskipti / SA



Lambakjöt
NATURALLY

A Brand New Viking Saga Is Out!

By Ingibjörg Rósa Björnsdóttir



© Gunnar Freyr

His name is Snorri, he's Icelandic and he writes about Vikings who chop each other up with swords. Sound familiar? Well, he's just published a brand new novel... You didn't see that coming, now did you?

"I follow in the footsteps of my renowned namesake, and spin a yarn about Ólafur Trygvason [King of Norway at the end of the first millennium]," Snorri admits, chuckling at the fact that he could be confused for Snorri Sturluson who wrote Prose Edda.

'Swords of Good Men' is Snorri Kristjánsson's debut novel, the first part of a trilogy. "It's a thriller about Vikings who live through a momentous time in history, when Christianity was hovering over Norway," Snorri says, trying to explain to me in a few words what the story is about. "The plot centres on a conflict between representatives from these old and new worlds, but there's also a love story, a dash of magic and a bunch of big guys hitting each other on their heads woven into it too."

Becoming His Characters

That's it, I tell him. I'm sold. After all, as an Icelander, I grew up reading awesome stories about Viking violence. But, wait a minute, why is Snorri writing a novel about Norwegians, in English? Where's our beloved Iceland in all this? "At the time when the story is set, in 996, Ice-

land was so isolated that it would have been such a hassle to have the characters travel to and from Iceland. It was just much easier to set a lot of Viking Age action in southwest Norway," Snorri explains.

He also wound up having to do a lot more research than he had anticipated, noting that some of his decisions lead to frustratingly detailed efforts of research. "I decided that one of the main characters should be an herbalist which I soon realised meant I needed to be one too. So I did a lot of online research and worried my wife a bit when she saw numerous links to 'how to poison someone with plants' in my browser history."

No Demand In Iceland

The decision to write in English was also practical. "I moved to England a few years ago to do a diploma in classical acting at LAMDA [London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art], so I was acting in English. And then when I thought world domination would come easier through stand-up comedy, I started doing that in English too," he says. "So when the idea of writing

came up it was just natural to write in English. Also, I myself had only ever read fantasies in English so I'm far more used to thinking about this sort of world in English than Icelandic."

But it's not as if publishing companies in Iceland have shown any interest in printing 'Swords of Good Men' in Snorri's mother tongue either. "They haven't even bid on it. They simply state that those Icelanders who like fantasy stories read them in English, which is of course perfectly logical if the stories in question are never published in Icelandic," Snorri says, winking deviously.

Nonetheless, Snorri isn't too concerned about Iceland's lack of interest. After all, he's landed a triple book deal with a London-based publishing company, and his first novel is so far coming out in Britain, the United States and Poland. He's also just too busy thinking about the last book in his trilogy, having just finished the manuscript for book number two.

Even though the market in Britain, or the English-speaking world, is considerably larger than the Icelandic market, Snorri says he was surprised to find that relatively few authors are full-time writers.

Snorri teaches English and other subjects at the Southbank International School where he has been solicited to write this year's school play after writing an adaptation of Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream last year. And, on top of that, he's written two unsolicited scripts for feature films, which two production teams are currently trying to finance. Needless to say, he's busy.

Incredible Coincidences

As an Icelander with no history of writing fiction, Snorri feels fortunate to have scored a book deal in London. "Well, being Icelandic might actually help, people do find it a little peculiar," Snorri reasons, "but my road to getting published is truly the less travelled one. It happens so rarely that I have to admit I was ridiculously lucky."

In short, a literary agent happened to attend one of Snorri's stand-ups, approached him and asked whether he had ever considered writing a book. Snorri pitched her a few ideas and she liked his idea of "emo Vikings" so he sat down and wrote it.

"This book is the result of many, incredible coincidences, but it's also the result of a few hundred man-hours," he reiterates. "I was lucky enough that on the eve of the day that the Icelandic banks started collapsing, I was doing stand-up in a comedy club in London and an agent noticed me because she thought it was hilarious that an Icelander was telling jokes while Rome was burning, so to speak."

Then hard work took over. "From that day, I woke up at 6:20, taught from 8:30 til 16:00, went to a coffee shop for three hours to write, then did stand-up in the evening, went to sleep at midnight and woke up the next morning to do it all over again," he says. "Luck has nothing to do with efficiency."

Excerpt from Swords Of Good Men

Stenvik

Iron didn't lie.

It obeyed simple laws.

Heat, then separate.

Then bend it to your will.

And if you listened, it talked.

The water hissed and sputtered as Audun dunked the white-hot blade in the trough. In time it would become a sword to split some poor bastard's skull, but that was not his fault. Nor the sword's for that matter.

The sword hadn't asked to be made. Someone had asked for it. And if they didn't have swords they'd simply kill with their bare hands. Like animals. Animals that fed on blood. The smell came back to him. The heady rush of it. He grimaced and spat into the furnace. The heat in the smithy forced Audun's thoughts away from the past and back to the task at hand. He judged the colour of the metal.

Three more breaths.

The blade emerged from the hissing water, cherry-red in colour. He turned it with the tongs, felt for the weight, inspected the line and the edge.

This would be a good blade. It would do what it was made for and do it well.

And if it got stuck in some idiot's head, he'd probably done something to deserve it.

VAKINN
CERTIFIED
Travel Service

FERDA
MÁLA
STOFA
ICELANDIC
TOURIST
BOARD

**LOOK FOR SIGNS OF
PROFESSIONALISM**
www.vakinn.is - An official quality label

Hressingarskálinn

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

Food is served from 10 until 22 every day. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, after the kitchen closes Hressó heats up with live music. Weekends, DJs keep the party going until morning, with no cover charge

How To Fake Orgasms

And Other Useful Skills

By Tómas Gabríel Benjamin



© Nanna Dis

An English fellow, a French woman and an Icelander walk into a bar, and the weather is so good they sit outside. It sounds like the start of a joke, but it's not. Alexander Roberts, Aude Busson and Sigurður "Siggi" Arent Jónsson invite me to sit down with them to talk about their theatre workshop. Sipping coffee and rolling cigarettes out in the sun, the trio try not to interrupt each other, but inevitably end up finishing each other's sentences as they tell me about their second annual workshop for non-Icelandic speakers.

Eternally a foreigner

It is plain to see that they are really excited to start teaching another semester after a successful run last year when sixteen people who identified as being foreign partook in their series of workshops called 'Encountering the Foreigner.'

"We were curious about this word foreign, so we decided to invite people to come join us in this process, people who were not necessarily artists," Alexander says. This culminated in a performance called 'Assassinating the Foreigner,' which examined how utterly impossible it is to lose the 'foreign' label in Iceland. The actors tried to feign being Icelandic, but each attempt was unsuccessful in some way. "If we cannot be this, and we cannot be that, then what can we be in this community?" Aude asks. That was the final question the play asked before drawing the curtains.

Aude, who has lived in Iceland for eight years, says last year's class agreed with her that becoming Icelandic was utterly unattainable; Icelanders are simply too homogenous, making assimilation difficult. Even if a foreigner is white and an expert in the language, he or she will still have some tell-tale signs of not being Icelandic, such as their accent. "Some people have lived in Iceland for twenty years," Siggi explains, "but they still carry this status of being a foreigner."

This year, the trio doesn't have a central theme in mind, wanting instead to explore new themes with their students. "It's important to move away from the dialectic of foreignness," Siggi says. "We can do more with the group than just talk about who they are now and how shitty or good being foreign in Iceland is."

The workshops will thus reflect the interests of those who've signed up, which of course keeps the teachers on their toes. The trio seems to be anything but scared

by this prospect. Alexander says it is rewarding to teach students who don't have a theatrical background, as they often challenge the working methods that the teachers have taken for granted. This forces the teachers to explain their techniques in a new way, and in the process gain a deeper understanding themselves.

Fake it 'til you make it

The trio believes that learning drama and theatre has plenty of real life applications. Chief amongst them are improved social skills and abilities to express oneself. "When you learn those skills, you get the opportunity to re-examine who you are and how you speak to the world," Siggi says.

Aude also argues that learning to fake it is a really useful skill. "We find that having the ability to fake laugh and cry, fake orgasms, fake illnesses, and to generally demonstrate fake emotions has a range of benefits in the real world. It's for example great for job interviews where you have to convince your interviewer that you are right for the job whether or not that's true. It's about being one step ahead of what you will become, which sounds a bit like 'The Secret' or something," she says, chuckling.

Finally they say that the theatre workshops are a great way to meet new people and Aude assures me the hardest thing is to show up to the first lesson. "There's this illusion that everyone involved will have tons of experience, or that participants are too old to start from scratch," she says, "but that's not that case."

A delicious 4 course menu
AROUND ICELAND

Join the Chefs of the Fishcompany for a trip around Iceland. The best and freshest ingredients from all over the island will tantalize your tastebuds in a trip sure to live long in your memory

Vestmannaeyjar Borgarnes

Húsavík Egilsstaðir

We also serve really good sushi for lunch!

Fish Company

VESTRUNGIR 2A, GRÖFARTORG
101 Reykjavík, Iceland
+354 552 5300
info@fishcompany.is
www.fishcompany.is

  **Þjóðminjasafnið**
150 ára

The National Museum of Iceland celebrates its 150th anniversary 2013.

Along with the permanent exhibition that features Iceland's history from settlement to present day the museum will offer a variety of exhibitions during the year, e.g. on Icelandic silver and photography.

Opening hours:
Summer (1. May-15. September): Daily 10-17
Winter (16. September-30. April): Tuesday-Sunday 11-17

Suðurgata 41, 101 Reykjavík.
tel: 530 2200 Thjodminjasafn@thjodminjasafn.is

Now offering catering service!

sushibarinn

laugavegur 2 101 reykjavik ☎ 552 4444

**Open:
Mondays-Saturdays 11:30-22:30
Sundays 16:00-22:00**

1 Reykjavík

Distance from Reykjavík: 0km

Tour provided by Icelandic Mountain Guides. See www.mountainguides.is for more information.



Reykjavík By Food

Icelandic Mountain Guides take us on gastronomy tour of Reykjavík

By Patricia Pormar



Nanna Dís

If you're Googling tours of Iceland, chances are that food walks won't be the top hit, and definitely not the first thing you'd expect from an agency that calls itself the Icelandic Mountain Guides. But it's about time somebody offered a culinary perspective of Reykjavík. There's scarcely a better way to experience a foreign culture than by sharing the food of its people, and frankly, I'd rather be eating than pickaxing my way over a glacier, nine times out of ten.



I met my tour guides at the ITM Tourist Information Office on Bankastræti. (Note: You read it correctly: it's ITM, not ATM. I made a fool of myself asking around for a cash machine when I knew perfectly well there wasn't a single one nearby, then panicked because I was running late and randomly began asking anyone dressed in a red or orange anorak—i.e. obvious tourists—if they were by any chance part of a food tour. By then it was five minutes

past the appointed hour, and the only reason I found the tour at all was because I stumbled into the Tourist Information Office to ask around).

Laufabrauð And Malt Extract

Our tour guides were called Dana and Barbara. Dana, a young woman from the Czech Republic, definitely looked the part of a mountain guide, with her tanned face and a traditional wool sweater. Barbara was an elderly woman who'd come to Iceland from Germany in the 1950s and still seemed fascinated by the former, judging by way she talked about the artistic patterns of the laufabrauð (a kind of deep-fried wafer eaten at Christmas) that we sampled at the beginning of the tour.

Outside, it was bleak and rainy—almost dark for a summer's day. When I remarked upon how bad the weather had been this summer, Dana and Barbara looked at me incredu-

lously. "We've had far too much sunshine the past three summers!" Barbara exclaimed. In Iceland? Really?

We crossed Lækjargata over into what our guides called "Old Reykjavík," which once was separated from the rest of the area by a creek that the street Lækjargata is built over. "This used to be a bakery, here was a windmill," Barbara pointed out to us. Our first stop was at Hressingarskálinn, which formerly housed the oldest restaurant in Reykjavík as well as Iceland's first McDonald's. It's also where girls used to go to meet British and American soldiers during World War II, as many an old lady I've met on the bus has sighed about. Here we had a sip of malt extract, which is something of a national beverage. Usually it's mixed with orange soda and consumed at Christmas, but it's sweet enough on its own. It's also good for digestion, Barbara noted, and an alternative to beer if you're pregnant.

Fermented Shark And Brennivín

Past Hafnarstræti (once known as the "Baron's street," according to Dana, and then just "Rónar" street, referring to the drunkards who frequented it) we finally came to the Old Harbour, which has been completely revamped in the past couple years and is now teeming with charming restaurants and cafés. Sægreifinn (The Sea Baron), however, has been going strong for longer than I can remember, and it was here that we stopped for a bite of fermented shark, to be washed down with a

potent shot of Brennivín (schnapps made from potatoes and flavoured with caraway and anise).

This struck me as a kind of rite of passage, because choking down a mixture of ethanol and ammonia requires all the pig-headed stubbornness you can muster. But you do feel brave afterwards. And shark is good for digestion, Barbara added, after chiding us good-naturedly for trying to cut the shark into even smaller pieces.

Soup And Beer

Our next stop was MAR restaurant, where we had a delicious bowl of seafood soup with bread and whipped butter. Although the soup was perhaps more reminiscent of a Thai curry than a common Icelandic dish, it went down a lot more smoothly than the shark. Barbara explained to us much how much had changed in the decades since she'd moved to Iceland. "People ate two large meals a day—that is, meat and potatoes. Salad was for cows, completely unfit for human consumption," she said. It goes to show how much things have changed, food-wise. As the meal progressed, our conversation turned to forestation issues in Iceland (is the lupine a boon or pestilence?) and other riveting current affairs.

When our bellies were full, we headed off to the English Pub—but only to sample Icelandic beers, thank you very much. On the way we stopped at Vínbúðin, the government-operated liquor store, where Dana pointed out



© Nanna Dís



© Nanna Dís

a few popular varieties of Icelandic beers and liquors, as well as dishing out some free advice. “Buy it in the Duty-Free—it’s way cheaper!” she whispered. At the English Pub, a friendly waitress poured us each a glass of Polar Beer, explaining that it was the first beer produced by Ölgerðin, a local brewery, after the ban on beer was lifted in 1989, and immediately sold out. We also sampled Ölgerðin’s award-winning lager, Gull, and the Úlfur (“Wolf”) IPA, which had a nice—perhaps even wolfish—bite to it. The samples had been generous, as I was feeling lightheaded and a little silly by the time we left.

Cheese, Meat And Ice Cream

As we made our way up Skólavörðustígur at a leisurely pace, we stopped at a cheese shop to sample some Icelandic cheeses

and had a taste of some incredible cured meats, including goose and mutton and horse. Our last stop was Café Loki at the top of the street, a cosy corner restaurant overlooking the impressive façade of Hallgrímskirkja church. Loki is the name of Norse trickster god, but the only surprises that awaited us here were pleasant (and edible) ones. The restaurant specialises in traditional homemade Icelandic dishes such as meat soup and fish stew, but we came for dessert: Ice-cream with rye bread crumble, whipped cream and rhubarb-caramel syrup, accompanied by a cup of Loki’s specially brewed birch tea. By now, the weather was brightening and the skies were clearing up and drying out—the perfect conclusion to our palate-pleasing tour. Or, as Icelanders say, “the raisin at the end of the sausage.”



“Out of this world!!!”
CBondGirl - Calgary, Canada. Trip Advisor



“It certainly was the best of the many places we dined in Reykjavik!”
FrequentFlyer513 - New York City, New York - Trip Advisor

BORG RESTAURANT - PÓSHÚSSTRÆTI 9-11 - 101 REYKJAVÍK
TEL: +354-578-2020 - INFO@BORGRESTAURANT.IS - WWW.BORGRESTAURANT.IS



WE TAKE OUR WATERPROOF TESTING VERY SERIOUSLY

J.S. Watch co.
REYKJAVÍK

MADE IN ICELAND www.jswatch.com

With his legendary concentration and 45 years of experience our Master Watchmaker ensures that we take our waterproofing rather seriously. Gilbert O. Gudjonsson, our Master Watchmaker and renowned craftsman, inspects every single timepiece before it leaves our workshop.

GILBERT
ÚRSMÍÐUR
Laugavegi 62 - sími: 551-4100

THE FRESHEST FISH ...AND IDEAS!

After years of study, strings of awards and having led kitchens of some of Reykjavík’s most esteemed restaurants, Gústav still sees himself as just a kid from up north, with a life-time passion for fish.



WWW.SEAFOODGRILL.IS
SKÓLAVÖRÐUSTÍGUR 14 - 101 REYKJAVÍK - 571 1100

ONLY
€8
TO THE
AIRPORT



LOW COST
BUSLINE

BOOK NOW AT KEXPRESS.IS

TIMETABLE

FROM REYKJAVIK CITY TO KEFLAVIK AIRPORT
OR KEFLAVIK AIRPORT TO REYKJAVIK CITY.

FROM HARPA REYKJAVIK CITY	REYKJAVIK CAMPSITE	KEFLAVIK TOWN/HOTELS	AT AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING
04:30	04:40	05:25	05:40
13:30	13:40	14:25	14:40
20:30	20:40	21:25	21:40

FROM AIRPORT KEXPRESS BUS TERMINAL	KEFLAVIK TOWN/HOTELS	REYKJAVIK CAMPSITE	AT HARPA REYKJAVIK CITY
07:00	07:15	08:00	08:10
12:00	12:15	13:00	13:10
17:00	17:15	18:00	18:10



KEXPRESS.IS | INFO@KEXPRESS.IS | TEL. 823-0099

Breathing Into Dance

Dance Meditation stretches out modern day stress

by Rebecca Louder



Magnús Andersen

Dance Meditation

Kex Hostel's Gym & Tonic

ISK 2,000

18:00 - 20:00 Every monday

In the cool dimness of KEX's Gym & Tonic room, we stand in a large circle with eleven people, slowly breathing with our eyes closed. Frankincense gently wafts through the air, helping to ease the mind and the senses. Meditation coach Tristan Gribbin connects the circle, gently guiding the group with her soothing voice as a new age-electronica song plays in the background.

As we begin to relax deeply, Tristan encourages us to move, allowing our bodies to flow naturally along with their breath and the music. This is Dance Meditation, a form of deep relaxation that combines the practices of Modern Meditation and breathwork.

Spiritual island

Originally from Palo Alto, California, Tristan has been on a serious spiritual path for over a decade. In the

mid-'90s, she met and married an Icelandic man with whom she began to further explore meditation and spirituality. After spending eleven years together in the States, the two returned to Iceland and Tristan felt a push to impart her knowledge on others.

"I got an offer from Baðhúsið to teach there and then doors started flying open," she says. "My focus now is almost completely on meditation. I feel deeply fulfilled and gratified by it." In addition to teaching at Baðhúsið, she teaches at Dansverkstæðið, holds annual meditation retreats at Sólheimar and, since early July, holds weekly Dance Meditation sessions at KEX.

While the practice of meditation goes back thousands of years and covers a cornucopia of methods and meanings, the form that Tristan teaches is specifically set for the hustle and bustle of the 21st Cen-

tury. "There is so much going on in our daily lives and we are constantly flooded with information," Tristan says, "Modern Meditation is very powerful as there is a real transformative energy to it. The breathwork also helps to set the mind on an inward journey."

Surrender to your breath

This emphasis on the self and the breath also makes it universally practicable by anyone. "There is no specific faith attached to it, but there can be if one wants or needs it," Tristan says. The only emphasis at her sessions is on Icelandic music, putting artists like GusGus, Hjaltalín, Retro Stefson, Ásgeir Trausti, Sigur Rós and Ólöf Arnalds on the playlist. She will throw in some mainstream pop too if the mood should strike.

Breathing is also the source of the dancing. Unlike traditional medi-



“*Modern Meditation is very powerful as there is a real transformative energy to it. The breathwork immediately sets the mind on an inward journey.*”

tation, which is mainly about stillness and inner focus, modern meditation encourages any movement that naturally results from taking deeper and deeper breaths. It begins with slow, long, circular breathing, eventually allowing the mind and body to release and flow along. “It’s about letting people tune into their bodies and finding where they need to stretch,” Tristan says.

If any of this sounds too vague, taking part in the experience of surrendering to the power of one’s breath and body makes it all crystal clear. Both Grapevine photographer Magnús Andersen and I arrived with an enthusiasm for dance, a

beginner’s knowledge of meditation and the need to cut out halfway through the session. But two hours later—after stretching, shaking, head banging, screaming into handtowels, and relaxing—we were both still there—still standing in a large circle, our eyes and our minds wide open.

sushi samba

A unique experience





Icelandic Feast

Amazing 6 course menu which combines Iceland's best produce with Japanese, Peruvian and Brazilian cuisine.

Starts with a shot of Icelandic national spirit "Brennivín"

- Minke whale tatakí**
Date sauce, wakame
- Icelandic langoustine cigar**
Chorizo, dates, chili jam
- Sake - salmon nigiri**
- Salmon maki - 4 pcs**
Salmon, avocado, asparagus, wasabi masago, jalapeno mayo
- Pressed lamb shoulder**
Mashed potatoes, tomato and raisin sauce

And to finish

- Cheese party**
Tonka bean cheese cake, cream cheese foam, white chocolate skyr panna cotta

6.990 kr.

sushisamba
Þingholtsstræti 5 • 101 Reykjavík
Tel 568 6600 • sushisamba.is



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



BEZT í HEIMI* LOBSTER SOUP
1250.- kr

MOBY DICK ON A STICK

PURTRIFIED SHARK
marinated in Icelandic schnapps
HARD FISH



Verbúð 8 / tel.553 1500 / Geirsgata
— OPENING HOURS : 11:30–23:00 —

EARLY BREAKFAST

Served from 7.00 am. with the coffee we roast every morning on the premises.
Lunch packs for groups from isl. Kr. 1.150
Also affordable food, snacks and delicious cakes.



Cafe
HAÏTI

by the Old Harbour
Geirsgata 7b,
101 Reykjavík
www.cafehaiti.is
Opening hours:
7.00 – 22.00

1 Grimsey

Distance from Reykjavík: 320km

Trip provided by Air Iceland – www.airiceland.is



Hanging Out On The Arctic Circle

By Lawrence Millman

© Lene Zachariassen

AIR ICELAND
FLUGFÉLAG ÍSLANDS



OUR VERY BEST PRICE IS ALWAYS ON
HIGHLY SEDUCTIVE OFFERS TO ALL OUR DESTINATIONS
ICELAND, GREENLAND or THE FAROE ISLANDS



© Lene Zachariassen

Since the Arctic Circle bisects Grímsey, the island does in fact have one sight—an Arctic Circle sign. And on the first day of my visit, an American cruise ship vomited forth several hundred tourists, all of whom wanted to get their photographs taken next to this sign. Some of them hit a golf ball past the sign so they could tell their friends back home, “Hey, I knocked a golf ball past the Arctic Circle.” Some, too, were wearing ersatz Viking helmets with horns. Fortunately, their invasion lasted only a few hours, and then the island returned to its natural state.

A Place With No Sights

Grímsey has over a million seabirds and less than a hundred people. Almost all of its houses huddle together along the island's southern shore like survivors in the stern of a lifeboat. There are no discos, art galleries, internet cafes, fast food joints, or—perish the thought!—Blue Lagoons. But there is one algae-green lagoon that's a favourite spot of the red-necked phalarope, a bird that constantly whirls around in circles to stir up plankton and insect larvae.

One day I hiked with my friend Lene to the northern end of the island. We walked past tiny haystacks and grazing sheep into an increasingly bright morning. It was a curious brightness, at once sharp and a little off-kilter, for in these northern latitudes the sun hangs low in the sky, and its rays always seem to have a hint of dusk about them.

At one point, I was approached by one of Grímsey's myriad horses, a male with a large dangling member. I moved away, and he followed. At last I stopped and informed him that I don't go in for interspecies relationships. He seemed to understand and sauntered away.

At another point, we visited the nearby cliffs and looked at the puffins. The beaks of these birds had so many sand eels dripping out of them that they all appeared to have Nietzsche moustaches. But Nietzsche was a dead serious philosopher, and puffins always seem to have a comic aspect about them. Indeed, you could call them the clowns of the avian kingdom.

Where Nature Still Rules

At the northern tip of the island, I thought I could make out the ice-clad mountains of East Greenland. Or maybe I was just seeing what's called an Arctic Mirage. But what wasn't a mirage was the sight of large SUV edgings down the footpath to this very tip.

“Icelanders think they can take their cars anywhere,” Lene remarked.

Needless to say, the car soon got stuck on the muddy trail and couldn't make it back up the slope. In turning its wheels repeatedly, it dug itself a deeper and still deeper hole. The tally: Grímsey 1, automotive vehicles 0.

In the evenings, Lene and I would play chess on the porch of our guesthouse, Barsar. This was an appropriate thing to do on an island whose old-time residents reputedly spent their days and nights playing chess. Reputedly, too, a person who lost a closely fought game would fling himself off one of the island's cliffs in despair. Whatever

despair either Lene or I may have felt at losing was easily drowned in beer or wine at the island's sole watering hole—restaurant a few hundred metres away.

No article about Grímsey is complete unless it mentions the island's kría, otherwise known as Arctic terns. This bird's seemingly lighter-than-air fuselage allows it not only to take off like a helicopter and execute STOL landings, but also to dive-bomb you acrobatically, all the while screaming kría! kría! kría! As it dive-bombs you, it will peck at you with its sharp beak or release a cascade of shit onto some part of your anatomy (note: my blue anorak still has several white-ish kría-made souvenirs of Grímsey decorating it).

Such aggressiveness is not meaningless. Far from it. For the kría are protecting their nesting grounds. Problem is, almost all of Grímsey is their nesting grounds... even in front of the island's church, where you'll probably need to duck as well as bow it. Yet the visitor soon grows accustomed to kría attacks. And, truth to tell, it's nice to be in a place where the primary aggressors are birds, not human beings.

It's also nice to be in a place where Nature still rules...

“Icelanders think they can take their cars anywhere.”

“You're spending five days on Grímsey?”, a Reykjavík friend asked me in astonishment. “But there's nothing to do there.”

“Precisely why I'm going there,” I replied. For I'd rather go to a place where there's “nothing to do” than to a place that whacks me over the head with its activities or sights.

AIRICELAND.IS



LINE.



1 Svínafellsjökull

Distance from Reykjavík: 330km

Blue Ice: Svínafellsjökull, Veronica And Elves

The Adventures of Carol and Veronica— Part 3

By Carol Devine

Birta Jóhannesdóttir is helping my daughter Veronica strap crampons over her boots. Our minibus parks in a lot minutes from Svínafellsjökull's glacier tongue. The lot was purpose-made for the 'Batman Begins' film crew, who shot at this stunning location in 2005. Svínafellsjökull is an outlet glacier of Vatnajökull glacier, which covers 11% of Iceland. It's a wavy field of waxy and shiny frozen sapphire, aquamarine and white waves. Our guide Helgi Jón Davíðsson lists the rules: "Safety, Safety, Safety." He'll lead our group, Birta another.



© Carol Devine

Glacier Girl

Veronica, nine, is the youngest. She looks like a superhero, Glacier Girl. Eight is the minimum age for this Extreme Iceland tour.

A guide is essential. It's potentially lethal to hike without crampons. People have perished on this glacier, especially when crossing it or a river were the only ways to travel in this part of southeast Iceland.

Helgi Jón demonstrates how to walk in crampons. You plant your feet purposefully. Walk like a cowboy. On hills, walk with feet parallel, not sideways, or you could break your ankle.

Veronica stomps ahead, the first behind our guide. We're walking on a mountain of deep blue ice, crevasses cutting through it. Ice ridges are smooth glass walls.

"The most amazing time to be here is in spring after rain," Helgi Jón says. "Blue, blue."

I love it now.

I ask Veronica what she thinks. "It feels like hiking on a giant slide. These spiky things help me grip it. It is white but when you look in holes there's ice. The glacier is blue, white, black and brown. I see ash from volcanic eruptions," she says.

Endangered Species

Svínafellsjökull means Pig Mountain Glacier. "Norwegian settlers brought pigs to Iceland," our guide says. We dig our crampons into the ice then carefully peer into a crevasse. "You have to be alert because what appears only a small dip could be a snow-covered deep crevasse," Helgi Jón warns.

This ice is a thousand years old. Vatnajökull glacier has an average thickness of 400 metres. In 250 years, it could all be gone.

Glaciers are alive. They shift naturally. But Vatnajökull is rapidly shrinking. Evidence shows glacial

melting is accelerated by greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Reports such as the 2004 Arctic Climate Impact Assessment researched by hundreds of international scientists state glacial melting is a significant danger to people globally, with sea rise and climate warming.

I feel I'm amidst an endangered species. A glacier. What can we do now?

Doing Is Living

At the bottom of a ridge our guide asks us to choose between two routes. Sensibly, Veronica chooses the easier route though she's been more confident on the glacier than many adults. My instinct is to take the harder route. But our new Australian friends, the ones Veronica calls the teenagers, joke, "Don't worry, we'll raise your daughter!"

The hike feels thrilling and safe. I follow instructions.

On a break I talk with Helgi Jón

about children and risk-taking. Some European school groups he's seen have such stringent rules it seems hardly worth bringing the children to Iceland.

I ask if he'll share a childhood memory of adventuring.

"We were raised in nature. We've seen floods, rain beyond your imagination. I was brought up in the Westfjords. We collected eggs, climbing on ice cliffs with the ocean right below us. I didn't realise the danger at the time. Sometimes I was frightened but it was harder to go down than up. Today if I looked at myself I'd freak out," Helgi Jón says.

"Why do kids do dangerous things?" I ask.

"The young think they can do everything. Some take too many risks. But doing is living."

Safety is crucial, yet I agree excessive risk aversion can equal missing opportunities to learn and test one's limits.

On the road again, Helgi Jón tells us about the hidden people, elves. They are colourful invisible people who help you if you help them. He says Iceland's government consults with individuals who can negotiate with elves, for example when construction sites suffer from inexplicable problems.

"If in 1970 you asked people in Reykjavik if they believed in hidden people, about 40% would have said yes. Today it'd be about 5%. It's a shame," says our guide.

Turns To Stone

For our final days Veronica and I stay at Reykjavik's Hotel Natura. I choose it for its eco-consciousness, proximity to nature walks and the free evening storytelling.

I'm slightly embarrassed to wear my pyjamas to the storytelling, but Veronica insists. There's a mother in a tiger striped one-piece suit, so I look okay.

On the stage in the cosy hotel theatre is a lamp and armchair. A

friendly actress invites us to get cookies and hot chocolate before the stories begin. She'll read a children's book, and excerpts from Egil's Saga and a novel from Halldór Laxness, Iceland's Nobel prize winning author.

While listening to Guðrún Helgadóttir's 'A Giant Love Story' ("Ástarsaga úr fjöllum"), everything makes sense. Giant troll Flumbra falls for a troll on a distant mountain. When she cleans her house and discards things in anticipation of his visit, the humans below think it's a landslide. She blows on embers on a fire to cook for the first time in 100 years, sending ash into the air. The humans think it's a volcano.

Veronica is enthralled. But Flumbra turns to stone when the sun's rays hit her as she walks to meet her giant lover.

A fan of scientific evidence, I also value folklore. It strikes me not believing in elves means losing stories and connection with nature.



I ask Glacier Girl what she thinks about our trip to Iceland. "I'll come back to 'Svína Fiat LaYogurt' [her pronunciation of Svínafellsjökull] when I'm twelve to work on a farm. I'll help the dogs round up the sheep," Veronica says.

We do a last walk in the forest at Öskjuhlíð Hill in the fluffy snowfall. Veronica spots an elf house, revealed only to her, and a rabbit.



ICELANDIC HOMEMADE TRADITIONAL MEAT & FISH SOUPS SEASONAL APPETIZERS COFFEE, TEA & DRINKS HOT CHOCOLATE & ICELANDIC PANCAKES BREAD, CAKES & MORE!

SUMMER HOURS:
 MON - SAT: 9 - 21
 SUNDAYS: 10 - 16

GAMLA / OLD ISLAND LAUGAYEGI 72 101, REYKJAVIK
 FACEBOOK.COM/GAMLAOLDISLAND

**3 MILLION VISITORS:
ICELAND ENCAPSULATED**

360° CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE

THE EXPO PAVILLION AT THE OLD HARBOUR
SHANGHAI - FRANKFURT - REYKJAVÍK
2010 2011 2012-2013

BRIM SEAFOOD sagofilm sagoevents LUXOR

Buy a ticket and enjoy a cup of gourmet espresso on us

**EXTREME
SPORTS WATCH**

Designed for extreme sports and outdoors. The brand's identity is rooted firmly in Iceland and perfectly blends traditional watchmaking techniques with stylish design and high quality at an affordable price.

These tough-as-nails watches can take punishment without suffering during your most extreme outings—from mountain forays to your next Tough Mudder.

**ARCTIC
ICELAND**

Laugavegur 18b, Gilbert watchmaker, Blue Lagoon, Epal Harpa, Meba Kringlan/Smáralind and Guðmundur Hannah Akranesi
www.arc-tic.com - www.facebook.com/ArcticIceland - info@arc-tic.com - Tel: 571 1177



The Graf Zeppelin Visits Reykjavík

by Helgi Hrafn Guðmundsson and Vera Illugadóttir



📷 LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin flying over the statue of Ingólfur Arnarson on Arnarhöll hill in central Reykjavík, July 1930. Photo by Ingimundur Guðmundsson.

“On Thursday, July 17, at around 11:00 AM, the citizens of Reykjavík looked up at the sky in astonishment as the magnificent German airship Graf Zeppelin sailed towards the city. Slowly and majestically it approached, its grey body shining in the sunlight. It flew very slowly over the city in a circular pattern and its beauty captivated everybody who witnessed this great sight. It was a truly unforgettable

scene as Iceland has never had a more distinguished airborne visitor.” (Fálkinn, August 1930)

Reading this caption today, it’s as if the small village of Reykjavík had been visited by an alien spaceship. In 1930, Iceland was still a very remote and obscure island nation struggling to keep up with the pace of modernisation in Northern Europe. Pessimism was on

the rise as Iceland’s fragile economy had been severely affected by the onset of the Great Depression the year prior. Airplanes were an uncommon sight, so it must have been “a truly unforgettable scene” when that elegant German airship appeared above Reykjavík in July 1930.

The Zeppelins navigated the globe to demonstrate and test the airships. The Zeppelins

transported passengers and mail on transatlantic flights in the 1930s before the Hindenburg disaster in 1937, and other political and economic issues, which hastened the demise of the airships. Iceland was visited a second time in 1931.

THE GREEN CHOICE

Premium Quality Vegetarian Food

Grænn Kostur is the perfect downtown choice when you are looking for wholesome great tasting meals.



- 🌿 Vegetarian dishes
- 🌿 Vegan dishes
- 🌿 Bakes and soups
- 🌿 Wholesome cakes
- 🌿 Raw food deserts
- 🌿 Coffee and tea

1.790 kr.
Vegetarian Dish of the Day



Descend 120 meters into the dormant Thrihnukagigur volcano.

“ I have never been anywhere underground that matches the grandeur and impact of this place.

- Sunday Times

“ Standing inside a volcano is a strangely emotional experience.

- The Guardian

“ One of twenty places in the world you must see before you die.

- CNN

Inside the Volcano

Journey towards the Center of the Earth



For the first time in history, travelers have the opportunity to see what a volcano looks like on the inside. Descend into a 4.000 year old magma chamber and experience a new underground world.

- Tour departures: 8:00 / 10:00 / 12:00 / 14:00
- Maximum 14 people in each tour
- Duration: 5-6 hours (up to 1 hour inside the volcano)
- Minimum age: 12 years
- Fitness level needed: Moderate. No knowledge of hiking or climbing is required.

Price: ISK 37,000 per person

Book now at [InsideTheVolcano.com](https://www.insidethevolcano.com) or at your nearest Tourist Information Desk.



Extensive safety procedures are followed at all stages of the tour and visitors are accompanied by specially trained guides at all times. All equipment and processes have been tested extensively and approved by the administration of Occupational Safety and Health in Iceland.


INSIDE THE VOLCANO
[InsideTheVolcano.com](https://www.insidethevolcano.com)

STUFFED WITH STUFF

Issue 13

YOUR FREE COPY

Page 8



"However, to quote Spiderman, with great power comes great responsibility, and the Progressive Party has been busy using its new-found political power to shoot web-goo at the mouths of people whose words they do not like."

When Icelandic state media needs protecting, not even Spiderman can save the day.

Page 16



"With a young population, Iceland's fathers are mainly between the ages of 24 and 31 according to Statistics Iceland. While other Western populations 'age' and couples wait longer to have children, 'old man' increasingly becomes a more suitable term for fathers than say, 'hottie.'"

Find out what qualifies so many of Reykjavik's dads as hot.

Page 44



"Before the crisis people were too busy, and time was money, and now all of a sudden artists had an opportunity to do things they couldn't do before. The creative industry has actually blossomed after the crisis."

Apparently Iceland's resident artists are far from starving.

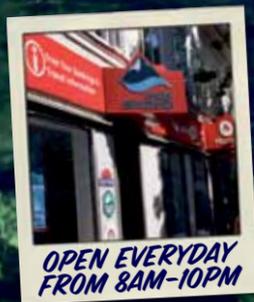
Page 52



"...I did a lot of online research and worried my wife a bit when she saw numerous links to 'how to poison someone with plants' in my browser history."

Snorri Kristjánssons tells us what it takes to write a modern day Saga about "emo Vikings."

Go Home
with a story
worth telling!



www.adventures.is | info@adventures.is | +354-562-7000 | Downtown Reykjavik Sales Office at Laugavegur 11

PLAN YOUR
ADVENTURE
WITH US




WE NOW OFFER
LUGGAGE STORAGE

INFORMATION AND BOOKING CENTRE
Bankastræti 2 - Downtown
Tel: +354 522 4979
itm@itm.is - www.itm.is
OPEN: 8 - 21



Scan QR code to locate ITM

FREE BOOKING SERVICE



The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

INFO

G Music, Art, Films and Events Listings
+ Eating, Drinking and Shopping + Map

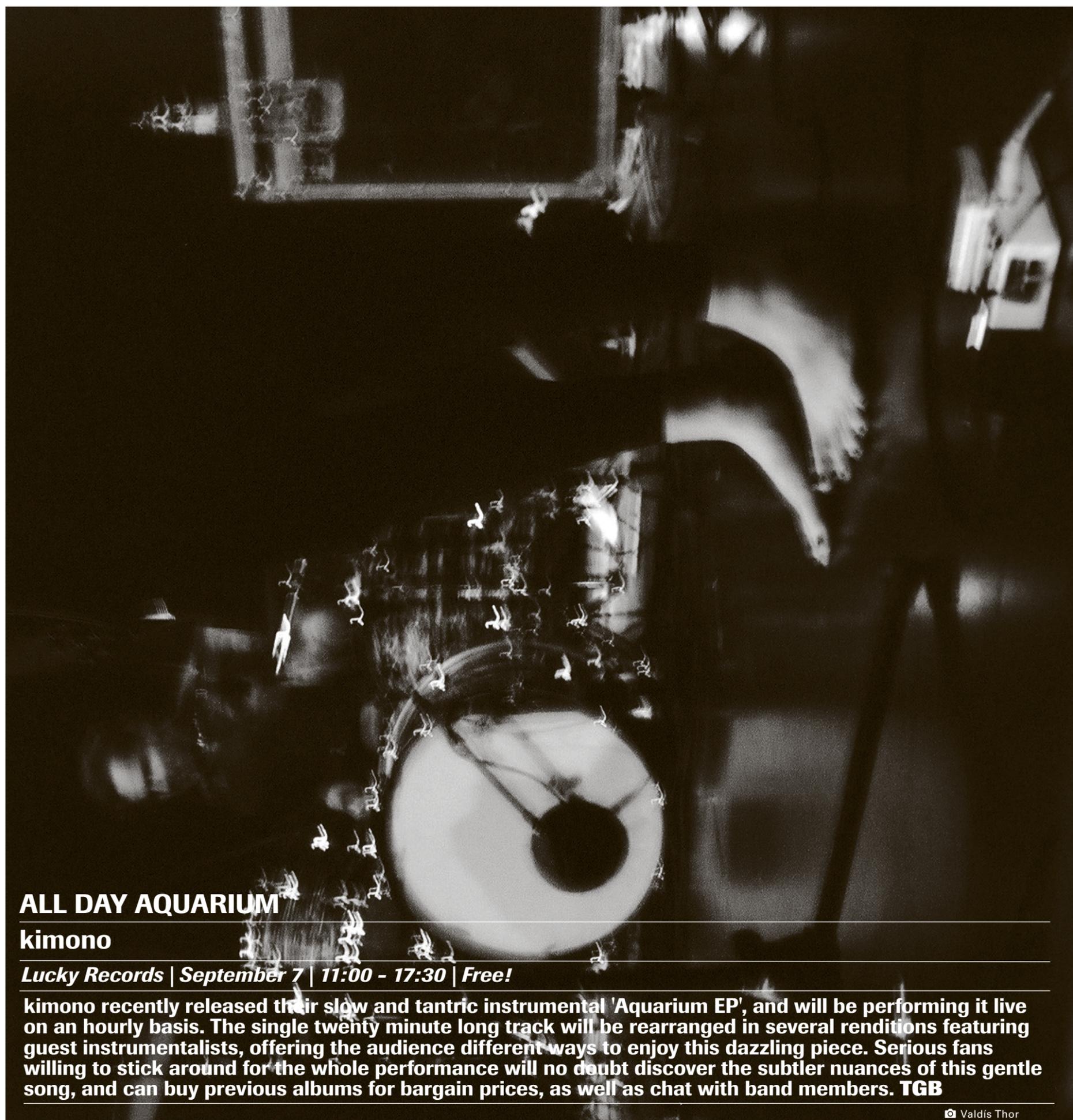
Issue 13 - 2013

www.grapevine.is

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO LIFE, TRAVEL AND ENTERTAINMENT IN ICELAND



ADVERTISING



ALL DAY AQUARIUM

kimono

Lucky Records | September 7 | 11:00 - 17:30 | Free!

kimono recently released their slow and tantric instrumental 'Aquarium EP', and will be performing it live on an hourly basis. The single twenty minute long track will be rearranged in several renditions featuring guest instrumentalists, offering the audience different ways to enjoy this dazzling piece. Serious fans willing to stick around for the whole performance will no doubt discover the subtler nuances of this gentle song, and can buy previous albums for bargain prices, as well as chat with band members. **TGB**

Valdis Thor

KRUA THAI

RESTAURANT AND TAKEAWAY

**AUTHENTIC
THAI FOOD
SINCE 2001**



**K
r
u
a
S
i
a
m**

HOME DELIVERY AVAILABLE!

Tel: +354 552 2525

LIKE THAI FOOD?
YOU'LL LOVE KRUA THAI

STRANDGATA 13
(AKUREYRI)

TRYGGVAGATA 14
(DOWNTOWN REYKJAVIK)

PHONE: 561 0039

BAEJARLIND 14-16
(KOPAVOGUR)

DELIVERY: 552 2525

AURORA REYKJAVÍK
THE NORTHERN LIGHTS CENTER

Explore Learn Discover

Iceland's first educational and recreational Northern Lights Center. Learn about the facts and enjoy the beauty of the Northern Lights

Visit us and experience our multimedia exhibition
Open every day from 10:00 - 22:00

Grandagarður 2 - 101 Reykjavík
It's only a ten-minute walk from the city center

www.aurorareykjavik.is

MUSIC

CONCERTS & NIGHTLIFE

August 30 -
September 12

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

Friday August 30

Bar 11
19:00 Grill Party With Endless Dark
23:00 Skepna Release Party

Boston
22:00 DJ Baldur

Café Rosenberg
21:00 Norah Jones Tribute
22:00 Brother Grass

Dillon
22:00 Icarus / DJ Andrea Jóns

English Pub
22:00 Biggi and Maggi / Tryggvi

Gamli Gaukurinn
21:00 Illgresi / Tríoíð, Friends 4 Ever

Harlem
22:00 FM Belfast DJs / Movida
Corona DJ Competition

Hressó
22:00 Gourmet Dance Party / VJ Fúzi

Kaffibarinn
22:00 DJ Katla

Katlagil Outdoor Education Centre
20:00 FUNI

KEX Hostel
21:00 Ben Salter

Prikið
22:00 Dungeon Massive / Árni Kocoon

Saturday August 31

Boston
22:00 DJ KGB

Café Rosenberg
21:00 KK & Maggi

Dillon
22:00 DJ Andrea Jóns

English Pub
21:00 Ingi Valur and Tryggvi / Addi Gamli Gaukurinn
16:00 Skálmöld / Dimma (all ages)
22:00 Skálmöld / Dimma / Strigastór nr. 42

Harlem
22:00 Esben & the Witch / Stroff / Good Moon Deer / Benni B-Ruff

Harpa
20:00 Pearls of Icelandic Song

Hressó
22:00 220 Band

Kaffibarinn
21:00 DJs La GaffeTales

Prikið
22:00 DJ Logi Pedro

Vífilsstaðatún
17:00 Of Monsters Of Men / Muggison / Moses Hightower / Hide Your Kids

Sunday September 1

English Pub
21:00 Ingi Valur
22:00 Ásta / Stefan

Kaffibarinn
21:00 Óskar

Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum
20:30 Mannheim-Sonatas for Piano and Violin

Monday September 2

Café Rosenberg
21:00 Stefan Grossman

Kaffibarinn
21:00 DJ Katla

7
September



Return Of The Villager Porparinn: Pálmi Gunnarsson Concert

Harpa, Eldborg | 20:00 | 3,990 - 6,990 ISK

The legend returns to the stage! You know him from Mannakorn, you know him from Eurovision and you know him for the song Porparinn. Oh, you don't? Well, you most definitely should, as he is one of Iceland's beloved musicians. And no matter what Google Translate tells you, he is not a palm tree. Special guests Magnús Eiríksson and Ellen Kristjánsdóttir join him on stage. Here is the word from the man himself: "Looking forward to seeing everyone!" **KN**



1
September

We're On A Road To Mannheim Mozart's Mannheim Sonatas for Piano and Violin

Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum | 20:30 | 2,000 ISK

Tune in to C major, as it is time to relax and enjoy some highbrow culture. Not that Mozart's eyebrows were especially high. They actually look like a perfect pair of the legendary Icelandic eyebrows. Violinist Hlíf Sigurjónsdóttir and pianist Joshua Pierce join in to stretch their fingers for Sonata No. 22 in A major, Sonata No. 21 in E minor and Sonata No. 23 in D major, which are three of the seven sonatas Mozart wrote while staying in Paris and Mannheim as a young rebel. Put on a powdered wig and fart in Salieri's general direction! **KN**

ARGENTINA

A Gourmet Experience
- Steaks and Style at Argentina Steakhouse

Barónsstíg 11 - 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 551 9555
argentina.is

Tuesday September 3

Café Rosenberg
21:00 Myrra Rós & Co
English Pub
21:00 Tryggvi
Kaffibarinn
21:00 DJ Pilsner
KEX Hostel
20:30 KEXJazz

Wednesday September 4

Café Rosenberg
21:00 Small Houses
English Pub
21:00 Hjálmar & Dagur
Harpa
19:00 Yoga Soundscape: Iceland
Kaffibarinn
21:00 Alfons X
KEX Hostel
20:30 Snorri Helgason
Loft Hostel
20:20 Jazz Night

Thursday September 5

Café Rosenberg
21:00 Unnur Sara & Band
Dillon
22:00 Pink Street Boys / Ofvitarnir
English Pub
21:00 Danni & Jón
Gamli Gaukurinn
21:00 Benny Crespo's Gang / Vök
Harlem
22:00 LayDJ & Sura
Harpa
19:30 Iceland Symphony Orchestra
KEX Hostel
20:30 The Pollock Brothers
Stúdentakjallarinn
22:00 Röskva Publication Night

Friday September 6

Bar 11
23:00 Knife Fights
Café Rosenberg
21:00 Marel Blues Project
English Pub
21:00 Biggi & Maggi / Raggi
Gamli Gaukurinn
21:00 Jack Live Music Festival
Harlem
22:00 Barcode feat. JonFri, Óli Ofur & Rix
Harpa
18:00 Undercurrents: Knife Fights / Pink Street Boys
Hressó
21:00 DJ Solid
Kaffibarinn
21:00 CasaNova
Loft Hostel
21:00 Ólafur Arnalds Birthday Concert
Stúdentakjallarinn
22:00 Freshman Party

Saturday September 7

Café Rosenberg
21:00 Þokkabót
English Pub
21:00 Addi / Biggi
Gamli Gaukurinn
21:00 Van Halen Tribute
Harlem
22:00 Bears On Ice / Benni B-Ruff
Harpa
20:00 Þorparinn: Pálmi Gunnarsson
Hressó
21:00 DJ Solid
Kaffibarinn
21:00 Már & Nielsen

Sunday September 8

English Pub
22:00 Eiríkur
Kaffibarinn
21:00 Kristinn Pálsson
Loft Hostel
21:00 Small Houses
Salurinn
16:00 Edda Erlendsdóttir

Monday September 9

Café Rosenberg
21:00 Duo Harpverk
English Pub
22:00 Addi
Kaffibarinn
21:00 DJ Dauði

Tuesday September 10

Café Rosenberg
21:00 Braars Henneman
English Pub
22:00 Ingi Valur
Kaffibarinn
21:00 Óli Dóri
KEX Hostel
20:30 KEXJazz

Wednesday September 11

Café Flora
19:30 & 22:00 Páll Óskar & Monika
Café Rosenberg
21:00 Fox Train Safari
English Pub
22:00 Biggi
Kaffibarinn
21:00 Árni Sveinsson
Loft Hostel
20:30 Jazz Night

Thursday September 12

Café Flora
19:30 & 22:00 Páll Óskar & Monika
Café Rosenberg
21:00 Svavar Knútur

31

August



Last Metal Offering Of The Summer Skálmöld / Dimma / Strigaskór nr. 42

Gamli Gaukurinn | 16:00 & 22:00 | 1,500 ISK & 3,000 ISK

Skálmöld are embarking on a European tour, but not before paying their dues to their loyal fans. With Dimma and Strigaskór nr. 42 warming up, Skálmöld is sure to drop some bombs! There is a child friendly show in the afternoon, and then the adult show at night. So you'd best memorize all the lyrics, perfect your corpse paint technique, and make peace with your forefathers because the mosh pit will be legendary! So join in the mythical voyage of Baldur and Hilmar, scream your lungs out for the children of Loki, and bathe in the sweat of your brethren as you pay homage to Óðinn, Baldur and Týr. **TGB**



7

September

Not Polar Bears Bears On Ice

Harlem | 22:00 | Free!

Every once in a while a polar bear floats to Iceland on a wayward piece of melting glacier. And although there are no indigenous bear species in Iceland, once a year, Iceland attracts bears from all over the world thanks to Bears On Ice, a four day event for Iceland's gay guys who identify as "bears" and those who love them. Cuddle up with these burly men at Harlem's event featuring DJ Colin Gaff, DJ John Eltong, DJ Dramatic and DreamBears. If you're lucky you might just get a genuine bear hug! **AB**

Photo by Tony Powers

English Pub
22:00 Eyþór Ingi
Gamli Gaukurinn
21:00 Pungsig, Skelkur í bringu, Icarus
Harlem
22:00 Karaoke / Kexverksmiðjan
Harpa
19:30 Iceland Symphony Orchestra:
Saluti! Greetings from Italy

Hressó
20:00 Battle of the Icelandic Bands
Kaffibarinn
21:00 Alfons X
Stúdentakjallarinn
21:00 Oktoberfest



Lebowski BAR

Laugavegi 20a, 101 RVK, 552 2300, lebowskibar.is

Den Danske Kro

HAPPY HOUR 16-19 EVERY DAY
LIVE MUSIC EVERY NIGHT

Classic New Danske Kro SOMERSBY

Ingólfsstræti 3 · 101 Reykjavík · 552-0070

Are you the Tourist of the Year?

The Reykjavík Grapevine and Inspired by Iceland are looking for **THE TOURIST OF THE YEAR**. Tell us why you should be the Tourist of the Year for a chance to win a free trip to Iceland.

Visit www.touristoftheyear.is to submit your entry!

MUSIC

CONCERTS & NIGHTLIFE

31
August


Heima, Sweet Heima Free Of Monsters And Men Concert

Vífilsstaðatún, Garðabær | 17:00 | Free!

After gaining international fame, Of Monsters And Men return home ("heima") to Iceland for a free concert in a suburb of Reykjavík called Garðabær, which some of the band members hail from. As if this were not exciting enough Mugison, Moses Hightower and Hide Your Kids will also join in on the festivities. Don't miss out on the chance to see all these Icelandic artists perform in an open field (aka Vífilsstaðatún) which is ripe for frolicking. **AB**

31
August


Brighton Beach Gothgaze Esben & The Witch

Harlem | 22:00 | 2,000 ISK

If the Beatles are a little too sugary for your tastes then sample the latest British import, Esben & The Witch, whose sound is more akin to Iceland's black licorice. They will cast a dark, eerie mood from the shadowy recesses of Harlem with the help of Stroff and Good Moon Deer. If you're in the mood to try something new, you might just acquire a new taste for this Brighton delicacy. Luckily music is easily imported these days but don't miss out on the chance to see them live in Iceland. **AB**

4

September



Good Vibrations Yoga Soundscape: Iceland

Harpa | 19:00 - 21:00 | Free!

With its peaceful seaside location and psychedelic glass windows, Harpa's bright lobby has attracted local yogis since 2011. Now Aarona Pichinson, a yoga teacher from NYC will colonise Harpa's concert hall for a free two hour class as an Icelandic incarnation of her Yoga Soundscape series. This unique sonic yoga experience features viola, harp, bass and other sounding objects as directed by Kristín Þóra Heraldadóttir. Make a trip to this yoga Mecca to pick up on some good vibrations. **AB**

Photo by Alisa Kalyanova

ART

OPENINGS AND ONGOING

August 30 -
September 12

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

Opening

ART 67

September 2

Serhiy Savchenko

This Ukrainian artist is the guest artist of the month.

Runs until September 30

ASÍ Art Museum

September 7

SEVEN – NINE – THIRTEEN – The Science Of Drawing

Sigrún Eldjárn is a visual artist, writer and an illustrator, known for her children's books. This exhibition concentrates on her drawings on wood, paper and cotton.

Runs until September 29

Bio Paradis

August 30, 17:15, 20:00, 22:10

The Act Of Killing

This 2012 documentary by Werner Herzog shows cinematic reenactments of real-life Indonesian death camp mass murders as directed by their leaders. Shown with English subtitles. 1,400 ISK admission, discount for students and seniors.

September 6, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00

The Kings Of Summer

This 2013 film asks, "Why live when you can rule?" Following three teenage friends who seek independence by building tree houses in the woods and living off the land. Originally in English, shown with Icelandic subtitles. 1,400 ISK admission, discount for students and seniors.

i8 Gallery

September 5, 17:00-19:00

Works On Paper

30 artists explore the medium of paper conceptually and literally as both a subject and/or object.

Runs until October 12

Icelandic Printmakers Association

September 7, 16:00

Næstved

Danish artists from the graphic workshop, Næstved, exhibit their works.

Runs until September 22

Kunstsclager

August 24, 20:00

ULTRA LION

Dennis Tyfus Eddyogmickysson is a Belgian artist and a musician based in Antwerp who founded and runs Ultra Eczema, a publication that releases records and magazines.

Runs until September 7

Living Art Museum

September 12, 17:00

Difficulty Of Freedom/Freedom Of Difficulty

Research project investigating the process of making art. The project leaders are Erla S. Haraldsdóttir and Carin Ellberg.

Runs until September 26

Mokka Kaffi

September 6

Haukur Dór

50 years ago in the beginning of September, artist Haukur Dór opened his first exhibition at Mokka in 1963, now his paintings are coming full circle.

Runs until October 17

The National Gallery

September 6

Ups And Downs

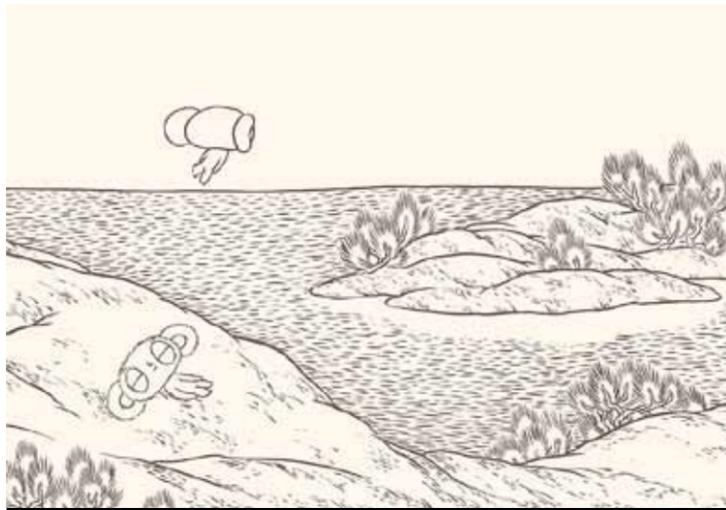
This exhibition explores the career of Dutch artist Kees Visser, which has been closely linked to the evolution of Icelandic art in the 1970s and 80s.

Runs until October 27

September 6

Passage 2011

In 2011 the artists Thomas Huber and Wolfgang Aichner pulled a red boat over the approximately 3,000 meters high Nevešattel pass in the Zillertal Alps down to Italy, on the other side. The vessel and the documentation of the journey,



Friendly Ghosts

The Wandering Ghost - Moki

Reykjavík City Library | September 5 | 17:00

If you love Finnish Moomins and Hayao Miyazaki's animated Japanese films, then you are going to delight in the work of German artist, Moki. Characters from his graphic novel, 'Wandering Ghost,' will be floating around the Reykjavík City Library starting September 5 at 17:00. Moki will also host a free comic workshop on September 6 between 11:00 and 16:00 for twenty lucky people. Email bjorn.unnar.valsson@reykjavik.is to reserve a haunt.

AB



Want Some Lava With That Coffee, Dear?

Volcano House: Café, Information Centre

Tryggvagata 11 | Every Day | 08:00 - 24:00

Why not escape a rainy day to the cosiness of Volcano House? Documentaries about the 1973 eruption in Vestmannaeyjar and the 2009 Eyjafjallajökull eruption run every hour on the hour in the cinema theatre – dubbed in English except at 18:00, in German, and at 21:00, in French. You can also wander around the geology exhibition of pieces from volcanic eruptions. The café serves international and Icelandic dishes, focusing on "volcanic food" e.g. bread that's baked in geothermal ground and barley and rapeseed oil from crops in the Eyjafjallajökull region. **IRB**

which gained special attention at the Venice Biennale, will be on display at The National Gallery.

Runs until October 27

Nordic House

August 31

Qanga

This exhibition features works from the comic books, 'The First Steps' and 'The Ermine' by award winning Greenlandic artist Nuka K. Gotfredsen.

Runs until September 22

Reykjavik Art Museum - Kjarvalsstaðir

September 7, 11:00

Kjarvalsstaðir: Guided Tour

Guided tour for the family through the exhibition Icelandic Art 1900-1950: From Landscape to Abstract Art

Reykjavik Art Museum - Ásmundarsafn

September 8, 15:00

Gallery Talk With Gerla

Guðrún Erla Geirsdóttir (aka Gerla) talks about the works of sculptor Ásmundur Sveinsson.

Wind and Weather Window

September 1

Rebekka Erin Moran

A film installation by Rebekka Erin Moran will play in the windows of the Wind and Weather Window Gallery.

Runs until October 28

Ongoing

101 Art Gallery

The works of Guðrún Vera Hjartadóttir, Hilda Hákon, Sigríður Guðmundsson, Steinunn Þórarinsdóttir and Jón Óskar are on display in the lobby of 101 Hotel. *On permanent view*

ART67

Magrét Hauksdóttir

Featured artist, Magrét Hauksdóttir, exhibits a series of oil paint landscapes.

Runs until August 31

Pink Ladies

The Pink Ladies will be painting Reykjavík pink and will put on an exhibit in ART67.

Runs until August 31

Artótek

The Book Of Smiles

Exhibition of illustrations from the children's book, 'The Book Of Smiles,' by Jóna Valborg Árnadóttir and Elsa Neilsen.

Runs until August 31

i8

i8 Gallery
Tryggvagata 16
101 Reykjavík
info@i8.is

T: +354 551 3666
www.i8.is

5 September - 12 October 2013

Works on Paper

ALEXANDER GUTKE ANNA
BARRIBALL ARIEL SCHLESINGER
BIRGIR ANDRÉSSON CAROLINE
MCARTHY DAVID SVENSSON
ELÍAS HJÖRLEIFSSON GAVIN TURK
GEOFFREY FARMER GORAN PETERCOL
HILDIGUNNUR BIRGISDÓTTIR HREINN
FRÍÐFINNSSON IGNACIO URIARTE
IRAN DO ESPIRÍTO SANTO JANICE
KERBEL JIRÍ THÝN JOHN STEZAKER
KARIN SANDER KARLOTTA BLÖNDAL
KRISTJÁN GUÐMUNDSSON LAWRENCE
WEINER MARINE HUGONNIER MARTIN
CREED MIRIAM BÖHM ÓLAFUR
ELÍASSON PETER LIVERSIDGE RAGNA
RÓBERTSDÓTTIR TOM FRIEDMAN
TOMMY GRACE VIOLA YESILATAC

Opening hours: Tuesday - Friday, 11-5pm, Saturday, 1-5pm.
Join our mailing list on www.i8.is or join us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/i8.is).

fish

Skólavörðustíg 23
Phone: 5711289



steamed fish
fish stew
fish soup

fish

Ingólfsstræti 8
Phone: 5713711

ART ONGOING

- continued -

ASÍ Art Museum RELOCATIONS

Didda Hjartardóttir Leaman exhibits a video installation and paintings of a path that leads up to something anticipated. This Icelandic-English artist has been holding exhibitions since 1987.

Runs until September 1

Hadda Fjóra Reykdal

Hadda Fjóra Reykdal exhibits paintings and watercolours inspired by Icelandic weather, light and colours.

Runs until September 1

The Culture House

Medieval Manuscripts, Eddas and Sagas

It includes principal medieval manuscripts, such as Codices Regii of the Poetic Edda, Prose Edda, law codices and Christian works, not forgetting the Icelandic Sagas.

On permanent view

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

Millennium - Phase One

A 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 displays books of Icelandic cultural history dating from the 16th century to the present day. Works include the oldest published versions of the Sagas, Edda Poems and more.

On permanent view

Lightplay

Dramatic watercolours by Derek Karl of Iceland's ethereal light.

Runs until August 31

The Einar Jónsson Museum

The museum contains close to 300 art works including a beautiful garden adorned with 26 bronze casts of the artist's works located behind the museum.

On permanent view

Gallerí Ófeigur

UPPÍMÓTI

An exhibit by Gugga, two years in the works, she uses oil and canvas to explore the magnitude of Icelandic waterfalls. Her work is bold and she captures the clarity of the unique Nordic light.

On permanent view

Gallery Sign (Skilti)

Skirt

36-year old Alison Willoughby displays a new large-scale piece. The photographic work is a playful inverted take on the cultural iconography of the British Kebab Shop and will appear as an illuminated signage on the exterior of the gallery itself.

Runs until December 20

Hallgrímskirkja

Beating Time

A set of translucent photographs by Jo Yarrington adhered to the four clock faces of Hallgrímskirkja's Bell Tower. The photographs were taken on Iceland's Outer Ring Road and reference Edward Muybridge's sequenced action photos of a conductor's hands, also titled 'Beating Time.'

Runs until August 31

Hverfisgallerí

Guðný Rósa Ingimarsdóttir

Drawings by Guðný Rósa Ingimarsdóttir.

Runs until September 14

The Icelandic Phallogical Museum

The museum contains a collection of more than two hundred and fifteen penises and penile parts belonging to almost all the land and

ART ONGOING



50 Years Young Haukur Dór's Paintings

Mokka Kaffi | September 6 - 26 | Free!

In September of 1963 artist Haukur Dór opened his first exhibition at Mokka Kaffi. 50 years later he is still painting and will have a second exhibition at Mokka celebrating his long career. Open for 55 years, Mokka also has a reason to celebrate, with half a century of providing coffee, atmosphere and art to Reykjavík. We don't say 50 years old, we say 50 years young. Cheers to 50 more years! **AB**

sea mammals that can be found in Iceland.

On permanent view

Icelandic Printmakers

Association

Seafood

This exhibition shows the works of artist Ásta Vilhelmina Guðmundsdóttir.

Runs until September 7

Kling & Bang

Ragnar Þórisson

Ragnar Þórisson opens a solo exhibition of large-scale paintings.

Runs until September 15

Knitting Iceland

Come and knit at Laugavegur 25, 3rd floor, every Thursday, 14:00 - 18:00.

On permanent view

Kunstsclager

Artist Of The Week

The artist of the week at Kunstsclager is Mima Schwahn.

Runs until August 30

Latin Dance Studio, Faxafen 12

Guided Practica

Learn Argentine tango on Sundays from 17:30-19:30. Register by phone 821 6929 or email tangoadventure@gmail.com, 500 ISK for students, 800 ISK for others. Six-week courses are also available.

On permanent view

Museum of Design and Applied Art

Chance Encounters - Toward Modernity In Iceland Design

The exhibit focuses on the introduction of modernism in Icelandic domestic interiors from the 1930s to the 1980s. It will feature well-known designs that have emerged from the modernist movement of the 20th century and made their way to Iceland.

Runs until October 13

Mokka Kaffi

Wall Carpets

Þórdís Erla Zoëga exhibits a series of pieces inspired by tapestries.

Runs through September 5

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

Sigfús Eymundsson Photography

A pioneer of Icelandic photography, an exhibit that taps into the cultural heritage of Iceland.

Runs until January 2014

Icelandic Silverwork

Various silver items that have been made in Iceland over the last 150 years. 'A Part-Time Silver Smith', a separate exhibition, will run simultaneously and display a

silversmith's workshop from the turn of the century.

Runs until December 31

The Old Harbour

Iceland Expo Pavillion

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

On permanent view

Reykjavík Art Gallery

Hjalti Parelus

Paintings by Hjalti Parelus and works by 15 other artists.

Runs until September 9

Reykjavík Art Museum -

Ásmundarsafn

Tales From the Vault - Sculpture Inspired by Literature

A collection of Ásmundur Sveinsson's sculptures tied together by a common literary thread. The exhibit presents key works inspired by Icelandic folklore, myth, and poetry.

Runs until December 13

Reykjavík Art Museum -

Kjarvalsstaðir

Icelandic Art 1900-1950: From Landscape to Abstract Art

An overview of Iceland art across five decades. The exhibit is comprised of four elements: Romantic and Radical 1900-1930, Landscape 1930-1950, The Human Scale 1930-1950 and New radicalism and the beginning of the abstract 1940-1950.

Runs Until September 13

Reykjavík Art Museum -

Hafnarhús

Interval

An olfactory exhibit by Huginn Þór Arason and Andrea Maack, the two have collaborated to create a perfume intended to embody the smell of the museum of the future.

Runs until September 1

All State

A sound installation in the elevator of Hafnarhús. Theresa Himmer's "All State" uses old elevator tracks to create a six-hour long mechanical soundtrack of the elevator experience.

Runs until September 1

The Sound Of A Bugle In A Shoebox

A retrospective of performance work by Magnús Pálsson, an avant-garde artist inspired by a love of and participation in Icelandic theatre. The exhibit develops over a week of live performances, including a premiered work by Pálsson himself.

Runs until September 30

Reykjavík City Hall

Protector Of Earth

This exhibition from Open Africa, promotes awareness



The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

IN YOUR POCKET

WHAT'S INSIDE

Reykjavík Map

Happy Hour Guide

Places We Like

Best Of Reykjavík

Practical Info

Reykjavík

August 30 - September 12

Keep it in your pocket

Two Weeks

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

7 - 29

SEPTEMBER

Gentle Strokes In Grey
Seven Nine Thirteen

August 30 SPIN ME RIGHT ROUND The goofs from **FM Belfast** will DJ at **Harlem**. If you're lucky you might see them running around in their underwear. The same night you can test your own spinning skills at the **Movida Corona DJ Competition**.

August 30 & September 6 GRAB THE POPCORN If you're ready for a movie night head on over to **Bío Paradís** for two new movies. Opening August 30, **The Act Of Killing** documents the surreal cinematic interpretations of mass killings by Indonesian death camp leaders. Opening September 6th, **The Kings Of Summer** is a coming of age tale following three boys.

September 5 GOTTA GET THAT PAPER As an artist's tool, paper doesn't usually get as much credit as it deserves. **i8 Gallery** remedies this oversight with **'Works On Paper,'** an exhibition of 30 artists who interpret paper as both a medium and a concept.

September 12 ICELANDIC OKTOBERFEST The **University Of Iceland** will be putting on their own **Oktoberfest** celebrations. Just look for the circus tents set up near the campus. There may not be lederhosen or dirndls but you can bet there will be beer.



Sigrún Eldjárn Exhibition
ASÍ Art Museum

13:00 - 17:00
Free!

Back in the 80s she might have been illustrating books about a two-headed blue alien coming to visit Earth. But in 2013, visual artist and author Sigrún Eldjárn's new exhibition, **Seven Nine Thirteen**, is far from aliens. There is nothing you can't draw on, it seems, when you get to see Sigrún's artwork. The free exhibition displays pencil drawings on paper, wood and canvas, taking the viewer into the thrilling world and imagination of children of all ages. Get the feel of an Icelandic childhood by stepping into ASÍ between September 7 and 29. **KN**

September 12 THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE We all know Icelandic bands are the best in the world but that doesn't keep them from battling for the top title. See who takes it all at **Hressó's Battle Of The Icelandic Bands** at 20:00.

September 6 PARTY LIKE IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY **Loft Hostel** hosts **Ólafur Arnalds' Birthday Concert**. It's not the composer's birthday but maybe it's yours? Make it unforgettable!

September 1 FUCK COPYRIGHT If you believe in freedom of artistic expression head over to **KEX's Gym & Tonic** for the **Nordic Creative Commons Film Festival** at 13:00.

SEPTEMBER

Swap 'Til You Drop!
Recycling At It's Best



Clothing Swap
Loft Hostel

15:00 - 17:00
Free!

In an effort to get people to recycle their clothes more, **Loft Hostel** is hosting a clothes swapping event. The rules are simple: bring your unwanted clothes, and exchange them for other clothes for absolutely free! No longer will you have to abide by the tyranny of expensive brand stores, or fear that you are fuelling the capitalist machine. Recycle your threads, listen to live music and watch a film about the clothing industry. **TGB**



SOUVENIR SHOP
SHOP OF THE YEAR 2012



THE VIKING
FAMILY BUSINESS FOR 50 YEARS

The viking:info

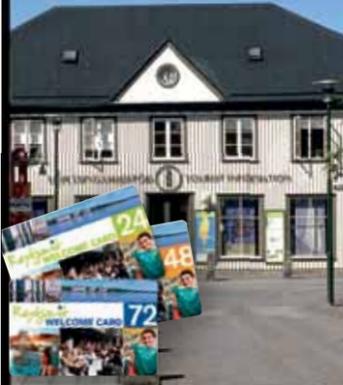
Laugavegur 1 • Reykjavík
Háinnarstræti 1 - 3 • Reykjavík
Háinnarstræti 104 • Akureyri
Adalstræti 27 • Ísafirðir

e:info@theviking.is
www.theviking.is



The Official Tourist Information Center

Aðalstræti 2 • 101 Reykjavík
Tel. 590 1500 • www.visitreykjavik.is



A

The best selection of Icelandic design in the oldest house in Reykjavík, Aðalstræti 10.



We are open every day.
www.kraum.is



B

Café Loki in front of Hallgrímskirkja



Enjoy some solid homemade Icelandic food
Open 9-21 Mon-Sat and 11-21 Sundays

C

MAP

Places We Like

Food

1 Dill

Nordic House, Sturlugata 5
Pioneering New Nordic Kitchen-style cuisine in Iceland, Dill Restaurant very quickly gained status as a Reykjavík favourite, which it continues to live up to. Using fresh and classic Nordic ingredients exclusively, Dill offers a unique dining experience whether you go for their short and simple lunchtime menu or the extensive evening one.

2 Lebowski Bar

Laugavegur 20a
A classic American style diner lies at the back of the pin-up clad bar on Laugavegur, boasting a short menu of quick and tasty bowling alley burgers named for The Dude (or His Dudeness or El Duderino if you're not into the whole brevity thing). It's a great place to chow down with a beer, but that could just be, like, our opinion man.

3 Ban Thai

Laugavegur 130
Although some claim service at Ban Thai can at times be lacking, most have no complaints about the food. Price and quality is good and steady and the portions are big enough to kill any kind of hunger. One of the few Thai restaurants in Iceland, Ban Thai gives the diner a unique experience in both atmosphere and cuisine.

4 Habibi

Háskólatorg, Sæmundargata 4
You can't find a kebab in Reykjavík that quite compares to what you would find in almost any major European city, but the Icelandic ones still make for a pretty fast food option. By now Reykjavík has a handful of kebab places, but Habibi is still the one who swept the "Best Kebab" category in our 2013 Best Of Reykjavík Issue.

5 Kolabrautin

Harpa, Austurbakki 2
Serving up an artful menu of neo-Nordic cuisine by an award-winning head chef, this Grapevine favourite offers an unbeatable combination of great food and a stunning view. Their bar staff are among the best in town and should more appropriately be called 'mixologists' for their finely crafted cocktails.

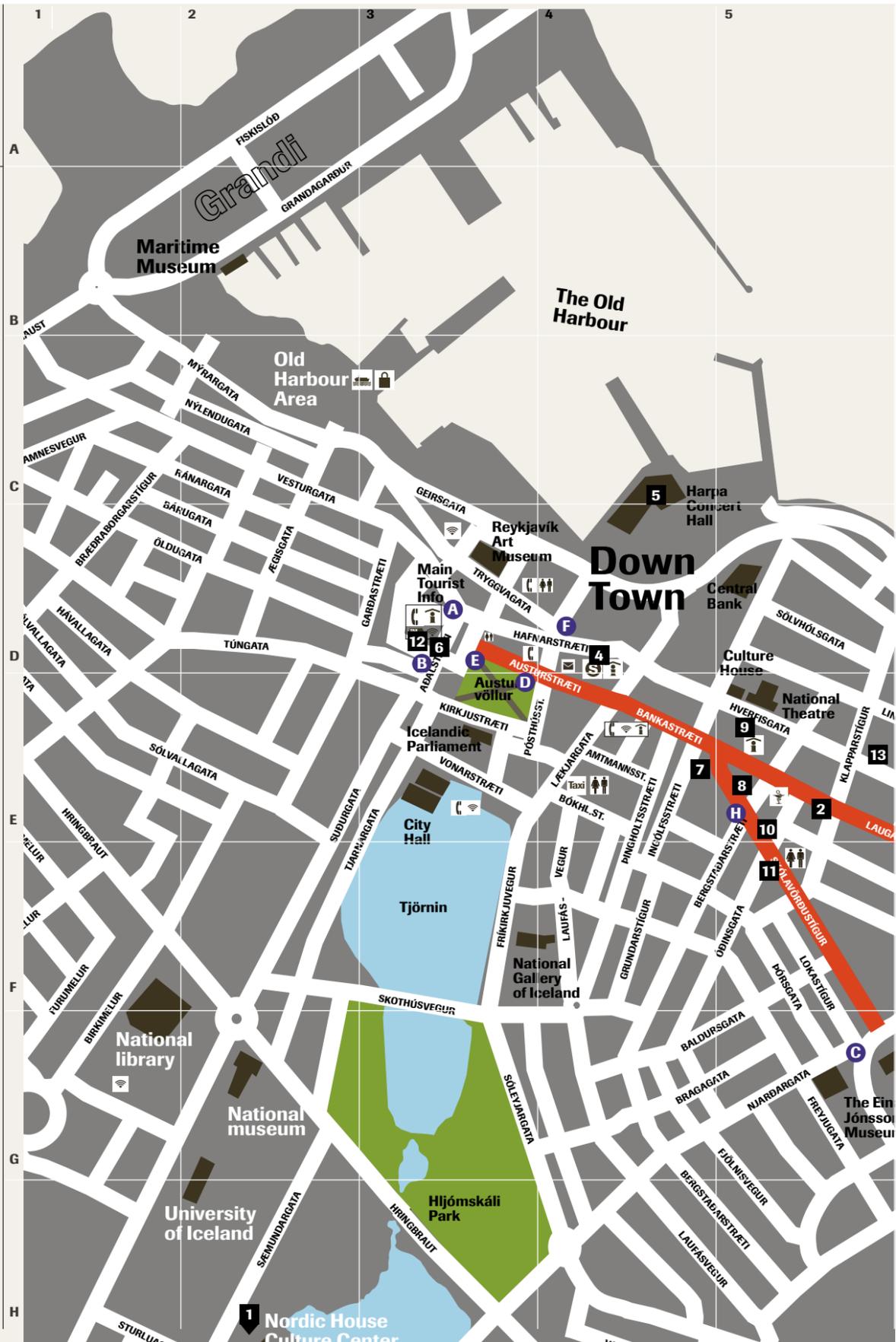
Drinking

6 Stofan

Ingólfstorg, Aðalstræti 7
Voted the best place to read a book in the Grapevine Best of Reykjavík awards 2012 and 2013, this old-timey coffee house is something straight out of a Carl Larsson painting. A perfect place to spend the day sitting on their antique furniture and sipping delicious drinks, both alcoholic and otherwise.

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**



7 Den Danske Kro

Ingólfstræti 3
This Danish-themed bar is located on Ingólfstræti, just off Laugavegur. They serve up Danish favourites such as Tuborg beer and Akvavit schnapps and proudly promote the Danish tradition of daytime drinking. How to ask for a large beer in Danish: "Hej, jeg vil gerne ha' en stor."

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, Reykjavíkflugvöllur, tel: 570 3030, www.flugfelag.is

Eagle Air, Hótel Loftleiðir, tel: 562-4200

8 Mokka Kaffi

Skólavörðustígur 3a
Mokkakaffi was founded in 1958 by couple Guðný Guðjónsdóttir and Guðmundur Baldvinnssyni and the place still in the same family. It is one of the oldest cafes in Reykjavík and the first cafes in Iceland to introduce Italian coffee making. Besides Italian coffee, hot chocolate and waffles, there are regular art exhibitions in the café.

Public transport

The only public transport available in Reykjavík is the bus. Most buses run every 20-30 minutes (the wait may be longer on weekends) and the price per fare is 350 ISK for adults and children. Multiple day passes are available for purchase at select locations. Complete route map available at: www.bus.is. Tel: 540 2700. Buses run from 07:00-24:00 on weekdays and 10:00-24:00 on weekends. Main terminals are: Hlemmur and Lækjartorg
Opening Hours
Bars and clubs: According to regulations, bars can stay open until 01:00 on weekdays and 04:30 on weekends.
Shops: Mon.-Fri. 10:00-18:00, Sat.

9 Bar 11

Hverfisgata 18
At Bar 11, DJs call the tunes every weekend, emphasising old rock'n'roll classics, chart-toppers and sing-along hits (but only if they rock). The packed dance floor tends to turn into a war zone on weekends - an appealing experience if that sort of thing appeals to you.

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.

LIVE MUSIC EVERY NIGHT

All the events and all the action
on 5 Big HD Screens.
Icelandic beer on draft.

THE ENGLISH PUB

Save Water, Drink Beer

AUSTURSTRÆTI 12 • 101 REYKJAVÍK • ENSKIBARINN@ENSKIBARINN.IS

D

New In Town



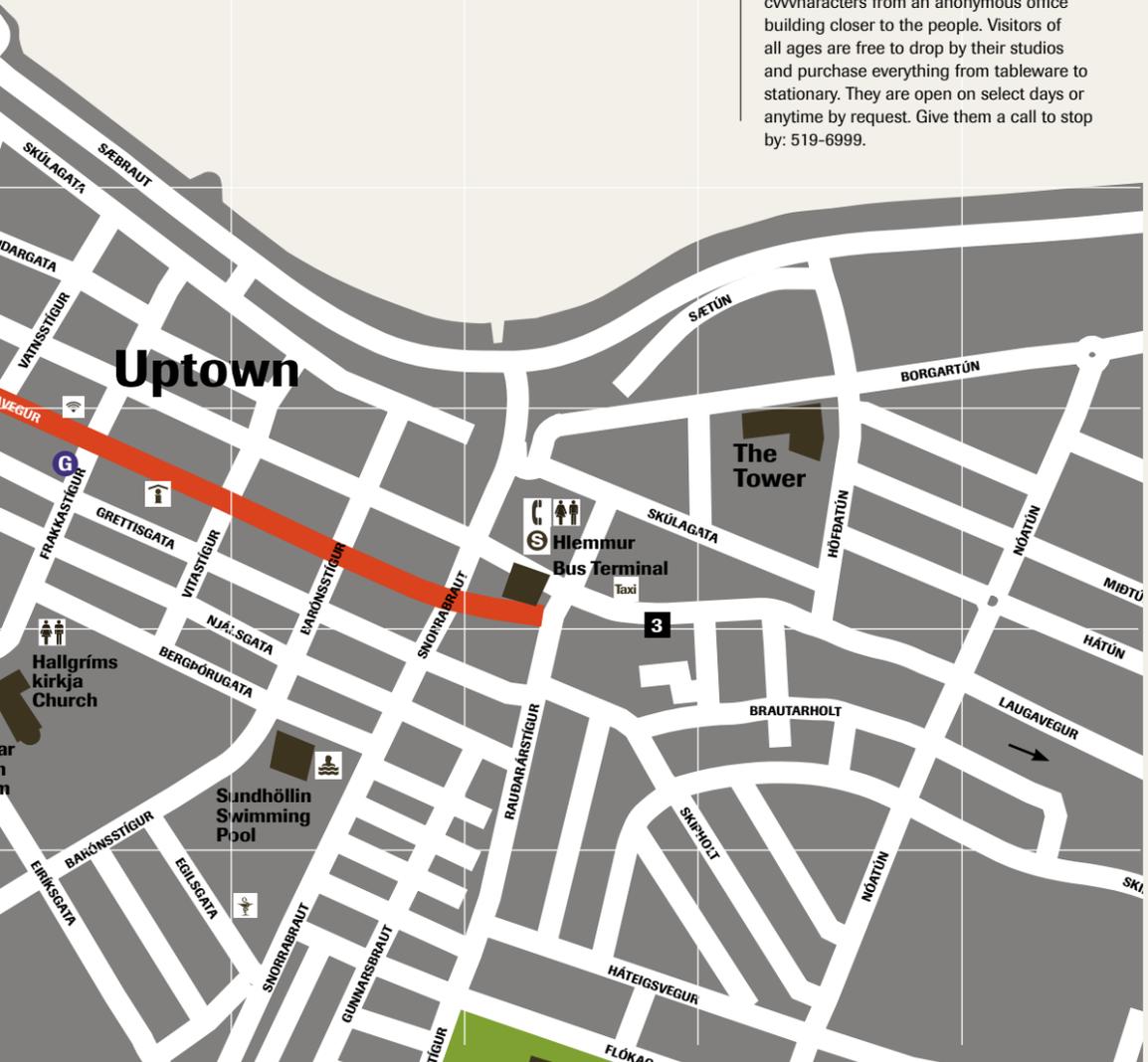
13 Tulipop Iceland

Hverfisgata 39

Welcome to the world of Wiggly, Bubble and Monsieur Bubbi! This is the office and showroom of the popular Icelandic design store Tulipop, a concept created by Signý Kolbeinsdóttir and Helga Árnadóttir. After three years of successful business in- and outside of Iceland, the lovely ladies decided to move their fantasy world of colourful characters from an anonymous office building closer to the people. Visitors of all ages are free to drop by their studios and purchase everything from tableware to stationary. They are open on select days or anytime by request. Give them a call to stop by: 519-6999.

Venue Finder Music & Entertainment

- Amsterdam**
Hafnarstræti 5 | D3
- Austur**
Austurstræti 7 | E3
- B5**
Bankastræti 5 | E4
- Bar 11**
Hverfisgötu 18 | E5
- Bjarni Fel**
Austurstræti 20 | E4
- Bió Paradís**
Hverfisgata 54 | F6
- Boston**
Laugavegur 28b | F6
- Bunk**
Laugavegur 28 | E5
- Celtic Cross**
Hverfisgata 26 | E5
- Den Danske Kro**
Ingólfsstræti 3 | E4
- Dillon**
Laugavegur 30 | F6
- Dolly**
Hafnarstræti 4 | D3
- Dubliner**
Hafnarstræti 1-3 | D3
- English Pub**
Austurstræti 12 | E3
- Gamli Gaukurinn**
Tryggvagata 22 | D3
- Glaumbar**
Tryggvagata 20 | D3
- Harlem**
Tryggvagata 22 | D3
- Hressó**
Austurstræti 20 | E4
- Kaffi Zimsen**
Hafnarstræti 18 | D4
- Kaffibarinn**
Bergstraðastræti 1 | E5
- Kaldi Bar / Café**
Laugavegur 20b | E5
- Kofinn**
Laugavegur 2 | E5
- Loft Hostel**
Bankastræti 7 | E5
- Mánabar**
Hverfisgata 20 | E5
- Ölsmiðjan**
Lækjargata 10 | E4
- Ölstofan**
Vegamótastígur | E5
- Prikið**
Bankastræti | E4
- Reykjavík Beats**
Hverfisgata 46 | E5
- Rósenberg**
Klappastígur 25 | E5
- Stofan Café**
Ingólfstorg | D3
- Thorvaldsen**
Austurstræti 8 | D3
- Vegamót**
Vegamótastígur 4 | E6



Museums & Galleries

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

Shopping

10 12 Tónar

Laugavegur 11

Both a record label and a store, Tónar have been bringing sweet sounds to Reykjavík for the past 15 years. They stock all of the best new Icelandic music on CDs and some vinyl.

11 Geysir

Skólavörðustígur 16

This tourist shop gathers memorabilia, souvenirs, clothing and gift items from all over Iceland at a convenient location. We love their wool and leather goods! Great for loading up at the last minute, as their stock is diverse and high-quality.

12 Kraum

Aðalstræti 10

The Kraum Iceland Design store features the best from the latest trends in Icelandic design. Kraum sells unique items that put an Icelandic spin on everyday objects like stationary, wooden children's toys, plastic zip-lockable handbags and raincoats, and clothing and jewellery made from wool and other materials.

Public phones

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

Internet Access

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

The National and University Library

Arngrímshús, Arngrímshúsvegur 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, Sundhöllin 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, Ingólfstortorg, by Hallgrímskirkja, by Reykjavík Art Museum, Lækjargata and by Eymundsson on Skólavörðustígur. Toilets can also be found inside the Reykjavík City Hall and the Reykjavík Library.

T-SHIRTS
**BUY 3
GET 1
FREE**



HAFNARSTRÆTI 5 & SKÓLAVÖRDUSTÍGUR 10

H

G

F

A beautiful collection of handmade historical ornaments & souvenirs

Gullkistan
DORA JONSDOTTIR
www.gullkistan.is

HORNIÐ
Restaurant - Pizzeria

Hornið opened in 1979 was the first restaurant of its kind in Iceland, a restaurant with a true Italian atmosphere. Hornið is known for good food made out of fresh raw materials, good pizzas baked in front of the guests, good coffee and comfortable service.

Lunch offers every day.
Open every day from 11.00 to 23.30
For reservations call 551-3340

ICELANDIC Fish, Lamb & Chicken in original PAKISTANI curries
Tandoori dishes, Nan breads, Kebabs, Samosas & Vegetarian specialities

SHALIMAR
PAKISTANI CUISINE

AUSTURSTRÆTI 4, 101 REYKJAVÍK ☎ 5510292

WWW.SHALIMAR.IS SHALIMAR@SHALIMAR.IS

E

Skoli.eu
Icelandic for foreigners
 All classes start in September

Morning classes
 4 weeks
 Mon. - Thu.
 09:30 - 12:15
 Level 1 - 6

MULTI-LINGUAL THEATER

Midday classes
 4 weeks
 Mon. - Thu.
 13:00 - 16:00
 Level 1 - 3

TAL OG ORÐAFORÐI 8 VIKUR

MULTI-LINGUAL CHOIR

Evening classes
 6 weeks
 Mon. Tue. Thu.
 17:30 - 19:55
 Level 1 - 6

MÁLFRÆÐI OG ORÐAFORÐI 8 VIKUR

Evening classes
 6 weeks
 Mon. Tue. Thu.
 20:00 - 22:15
 Level 1 - 3

THE TIN CAN FACTORY

Borgartún 1 • 105 Reykjavík • Tel. 551 7700 • 821 7163
 info@thetincanfactory.eu • www.thetincanfactory.eu

Best Of Reykjavík

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



BEST SLICE: DELI



Lo and behold! Deli reclaims the title of 'BEST SLICE,' and it's no wonder. Getting pizza by the slice in Reykjavík can be a scary affair—you might just wind up chewing on something dry and cardboard-y that has been sitting in a heater box all day—but such concerns do not apply to the mighty Deli on Laugavegur. The slices are ever-fresh, the toppings are novel and delicious and the prices are well acceptable. We only wish they'd stay open for longer—pizza by the slice is meant to be enjoyed in a state of certain inebriation.

Located at Bankastræti 14



BEST POOL: LAUGARDALSLAUG



Oh, we know, we know! Everyone has such strong opinions about their local pool and fights for their sunlaug to the death, so people generally furious and defensive about this category. Through all the myriad opinions and local favouritisms, Laugardalslaug still manages to shine through like a beacon of watery pool goodness, especially since their extensive revamp that's still in process. This pool literally has it all—fun and games, relaxation and leisure, exercise pools, therapeutic hot tubs and sports facilities. This place is so iconic, too: a must-go for any visitor.

Located in Sundlaugavegur 30



BEST SECOND HAND SHOP: RED CROSS



We had some arguments about what exactly counted as a "second-hand" shop, but it ultimately came down to a vintage store with no curating—as in, no hand-picked collections or price mark-ups for various styles or labels. We ultimately boiled this down to the Red Cross stores on Laugavegur—one near Hlemmur and the other more centrally located—for their treasure trove-like atmospheres. Here you can get the best of a second-hand shopping experience, sifting and sorting and finally finding that dream item you never even knew you needed. Plus, they are really damn cheap so it's a total win-win.

Located at Laugavegur 12

A HUGE SELECTION OF ICELANDIC BEER

73

RESTAURANT
 ~ HOME OF THE EPIC ~

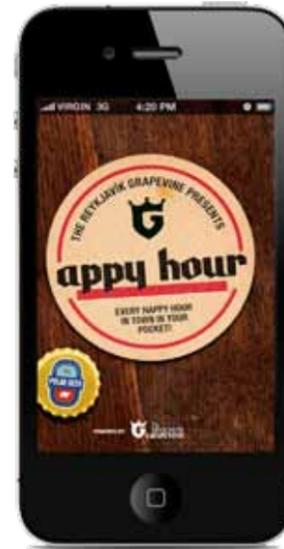
Awesome Icelandic fish, incredible steaks and Epic burgers along with a huge selection of Icelandic brew.

73 Restaurant | Laugavegur 73. | tel: 555 73 73 | www.73.is

A GUIDE THAT FUCKS YOU UP

A list of every Happy Hour in 101 Reykjavík

- 101 Hótel**
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00. Beer 475 ISK, wine 645 ISK, cocktails from 1000 ISK.
- Austur**
Thursday to Saturday from 20:00 to 00:00
Beer 550 ISK and wine 550 ISK.
- B5**
Every day from 17:00 to 22:00.
Beer 550 ISK, cider 700 ISK, wine 550 ISK.
- Bjarni Fel**
Monday to Friday from 21:00 to 23:00.
2 for 1 on all tap drinks, Beer for 445 ISK.
- Boston**
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00,
Beer 500 ISK, Wine 500 ISK.
- Bunk Bar**
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00.
Wine 700 ISK, Beer 2 for 1 900 ISK.
- Celtic Cross**
Every day from 17:00 to 20:00.
2 for 1 on Gull and Polar for 900 ISK.
- Den Danske Kro**
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00. All Draught Beer 950 ISK and wine for 900 ISK.
- Dillon**
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00.
2 for 1 Beer 850 ISK.
- Dolly**
Tuesday to Saturday from 17:00 to 20:00.
Beer 500 ISK and wine 500 ISK.
- Dubliner**
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00.
2 for 1 beer Tuborg 1000 ISK.
- Glaumbar**
Every day from 21:00 to closing. Beer 390 ISK.
- Harlem**
Every day from 17:00 to 22:00.
Beer 550 ISK, wine 700 ISK.
- Hilton Hotel Bar**
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00.
All drinks half price.



Download the FREE Grapevine Appy Hour app!

Every happy hour in town in your pocket. Available in the App store and on the Android Market.

- Hótel 1919**
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00. 2 for 1 beer 1000 ISK, white wine 1590 ISK, Red wine 1290 ISK, Cocktail of the Day 2190 ISK.
- Hótel Holt Gallery Bar**
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00. Beer 550 ISK, Wine 695 ISK, Cocktail of the Week 950 ISK.
- Hótel Natura**
Every day from 16:00 to 18:00.
All drinks half price.
- Hótel Plaza Bar**
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00. Beer 500 ISK.

- Iða Zimsen**
Every Day from 19:00 to 22:00.
All bottled beers 550 ISK.
- Kaffi Kompaníð**
Thursday to Sunday from 16:00 to 18:00.
2 for 1 beer 850 ISK, wine 700 ISK.
- Kaffi Zimsen**
Every day from 17:00 to 21:00. Beer 550 ISK.
- Kaldibar**
Every day from 17:00 to 20:00.
2 for 1 on beer and wine.
- Kiki Queer Bar**
Thursdays from 20:00 to 22:00.
Beer 450 ISK, wine 600 ISK.
- Kolabrautinn**
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00.
Beer 450 ISK, Wine 700 ISK, Cocktails from 1000 ISK, Champagne glass 1500 ISK.
- Lebowski Bar**
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00.
2 for 1 beer 900 ISK and wine for 1100 ISK.
- Loft Hostel Bar**
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00.
Beer 500 ISK, cider 500 ISK, wine 700 ISK.
- Micro Bar**
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00.
Draught Beer 500 ISK.
- Miðgarður Bistro bar**
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00. All drinks half price, Beer 500 ISK, Wine 600 ISK.
- Nora Magasin**
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00. Viking Beer for 500 ISK, House Wine for 600 ISK.
- Prikið**
Monday to Friday from 16:00 to 20:00. 2 for 1 Viking 750 ISK, Viking Classic 850 ISK.
- Roadhouse**
Friday and Saturday 22:00 - 23:00.
2 for 1 Beer 895 ISK, Wine 895 ISK.
- SKY Bar & Lounge**
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00, Beer 500 ISK, Wine 800 ISK.
- Slippbarinn**
Every day from 16:00 to 18:00. Beer 500 ISK, Wine 500 ISK, selected cocktails 950 ISK.
- Stofan**
Every day from 17:00 to 20:00.
Beer 650 ISK and Wine 800 ISK.
- Tapashúsið**
Every day from 16:00 to 18:00.
All beer and wine half price.
- Uppsalar - Bar & Café**
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00.
2 for 1 on all drinks except cognac.
- Pingholtsbar**
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00. Beer 500 ISK.

ART ONGOING

- continued -

of environmental issues and sustainable development in Africa with a focus on protecting nature. It consists of work by five sub-Saharan photographers.

Runs until September 9

The Reykjavík City Library

The collection centers around new Nordic literature, both fiction and nonfiction. The library lends out novels, academic publications, audio books and more.

On permanent view

Reykjavík City Museum

Reykjavík 871 +/- 2: The Settlement Exhibition

Archaeological findings from ruins of one of the first houses in Iceland and other excavations in the city centre, open daily 10:00-17:00, 1.100 ISK per adult, 650 ISK per person in groups (10+) and free for children 18 and under.

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

This vessel sailed through all three Cod Wars and also served as a rescue ship to over 200 ships.

On permanent view

75th Anniversary Of The Seaman's Day Council

An exhibit celebrating the 75th anniversary of Seaman's Day by telling the story of the Day from its first envisionment to current celebrations.

Runs until November 30

The Reykjavík Museum of Photography

Horse With No Name

Spessi took portrait photographs of numerous bikers during his travels and exploration of the biker culture in the United States from 2011 to 2012.

Runs until September 15

Wild Cats

Fragments of the ever-growing photography collection that Sunna Ben has accumulated from carrying her camera with her day and night for the past seven years.

Runs until September 10

Saga Museum

A Viking Museum that intimately recreates key moments in Iceland's history, giving a compelling view into how Icelanders have lived for more than a millennium. From the time of the earliest settlers, history is brought to life.

On permanent view

Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum

De Profundis

A collection of sculptures by Sigurjón Ólafsson and the paintings of his contemporaries. This group of artists are known today as "trailblazers of modernism" in Iceland.

Runs weekends until December 1

Spark Design Space

Anatomy Of Letters

Sigríður Rún explores ancient Icelandic letters by imagining them as organisms with their own particular anatomies. She has just received the Art Directors Award of Europe in the student category.

Runs until September 30

Volcano House

The exhibition gives a brief overview of Iceland's geological history and volcanic systems, and there are superb photographs of volcanic eruptions and other magnificent aspects of Icelandic nature.

On permanent view

Poka

Longing To Be Loved Or Destroyed

Habbý Ósk opens an exhibit on human behaviour and relationships. The exhibition consists of photographs, sculpture and a video piece where candles are in the forefront.

Runs until September 15



Canvas Creatures So Close No Matter How Far - Nora Helsinki

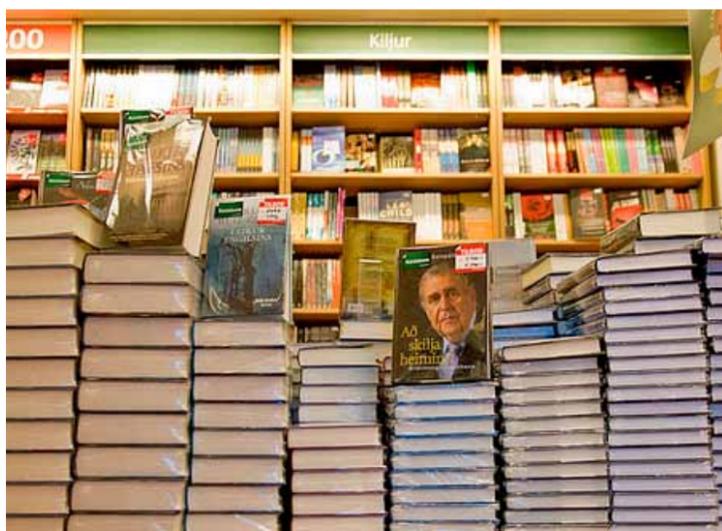
Kingdom Within Tattoo Studio & Gallery | Free!

September 12 - October 5 | Opening 18:00 - 20:00

Nora Helsinki likes it rough, at least when it comes to the background of her quirky underground art. This Finn has learned the secrets of art by herself and loves mixing styles in a street artsy way like there is no tomorrow. Now she is venturing over to Reykjavík to host a small art exhibition for the pre-party of the Icelandic Tattoo Expo. **KN**



Find all art listings
online
listings.grapevine.is



Eat, Sleep, Drink Books! The Reykjavík International Literary Festival

Nordic House, Iðnó and Harpa | September 11-15 |

Free entry except for Literary Ball: 1,500 ISK

Calling all book lovers! The annual Literary Festival provides lectures, interviews and panels with a chance of seeing and hearing some of the world's most renowned contemporary authors. Fifteen international authors visit this year and join ten Icelandic authors for discussions on the literary and publishing world. The atmosphere of the festival is pretty relaxed so there's a chance of joining the authors for a chit-chat at the book bar in Iðnó every evening. Not only that, but you can even dance with your favourite author at the Literary Ball on Saturday night. **IRB**

WE LOVE WHAT WE DO AND DO WHAT WE LOVE
www.theicelandichorse.is - Tel: 434 7979

#1 on TripAdvisor
for two years

COMMENTS FROM OUR GUESTS:
 "Best of the best of Iceland!"
 "Never ridden? Experienced? Perfect for both!"
 "Beautiful environment, great horses, perfect guide"
 "We would come to Iceland for this alone"
 "Lives up to it's reputation!"

INCLUDED
PHOTOS from the
tour. Pick up - drop
off in Reykjavík

RIDING
TOURS
IN REYKJAVÍK

Experience Icelandic Art and Design

ROUTE
40



**Kópavogur
Art Museum-
Gerðarsafn**
Hamraborg 4, Kópavogur
Tel. +354 570 0440
Open 11-17
Closed on Mondays
www.gerdarsafn.is



**Hönnunarsafn Íslands
Museum of Design
and Applied Art**
Garðatorg 1, Garðabær
Tel. +354 512 1525
Open 12-17
Closed on Mondays
www.honnunarsafn.is



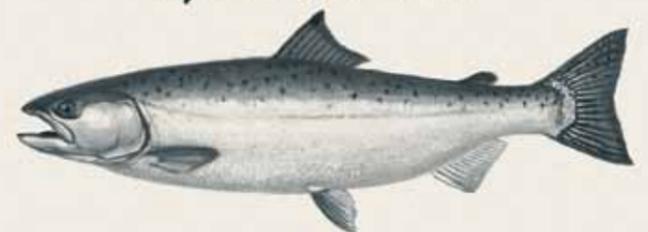
**Hafnarborg
The Hafnarfjörður
Centre of Culture
and Fine Art**
Strandgata 34, Hafnarfjörður
Tel. +354 585 5790
Open 12-17
Thursdays 12-21
Closed on Tuesdays
www.hafnarborg.is

**Chance Encounters
Towards Modernity in
Icelandic Design**

Indications - Buildings within a Building
Elín Hansdóttir, Ilmur Stefánsdóttir
Marcos Zotes, Theresa Himmer, Gordon Matta-Clark

To the Blue Lagoon

- Discover - ICELANDIC SEAFOOD - By the old harbour -



WITH OVER DIFFERENT 80 COURSES TO CHOOSE FROM, YOU CAN GET ACQUAINTED WITH ALL THE BEST FISH IN ONE NIGHT AT THE TAPASHOUSE.

Restaurant & Bar Seafood & Tapas

Always fresh
and tasty fish

TAPASHOUSE - ÆGISGARDUR 2 - SÓLFELLSHÚSÍÐ - 101 REYKJAVÍK
+354 512 81 81 - INFO@TAPASHOUSE.IS - WWW.TAPASHOUSE.IS



DAILY ADVENTURES ON BREIDAFJORDUR BAY

- VikingSushi adventure
- Ferry Baldur
- Flatey, the island where time stands still



Booking number +354 433 2254
www.seatours.is

seatours@seatours.is - Smiðjustíg 3 - Stykkishólmi - Snæfellsnes



Available at most respectable souvenir stores.

VARMA
The Warmth of Iceland
WWW.GLOFI.IS

OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK

OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK

North Iceland

Akureyri

All over Akureyri

Akureyri Town Festival
August 30 - September 1

The theme of Akureyri Town Festival this year is multiculturalism as people from more than sixty ethnicities live in Akureyri. The opening ceremony will be on Friday evening at the Botanical Garden with Latin atmosphere all around. The festival also marks the end of Akureyri Summer of Art. See full programme on www.visitakureyri.is

Akureyri Botanical Gardens Opening ceremony of the Akureyri Town Fest

August 30, 20:30 - 22:00

Latin atmosphere with musicians, poetry reading, Thai dance and more.

ÁLFkonur - LYSTSEMDIR

Runs until September 3

An eclectic group of photography enthusiasts, ÁLFkonur are in the habit of taking photos of everything that concerns them.

Akureyri City Theatre Haunted Walk

August 30, 22:30 - 23:30

Walk and be scared by the theater and in the old town! The theater turns into a haunted house and the old town becomes a ghost town when the lights are turned off.

Akureyri Center For Visual Arts 20 Year Celebration

August 31, 13:00 - 16:00

Artist's market with artworks, guided tours and free tattoos.

Anamnesis/SILENCE

Runs until October 6

Stephen Boulter is a part of the kitsch movement and Janne Laine from Finland uses photogravure techniques.

Deiglan

Á Mörkum Heimanna

Runs until September 14

Exhibition called 'On The Border Of Two Worlds' by artist Frímánn Kjerúlf.

Ketilhúsið

Stolnar Fjaðrir

Runs until September 15

Exhibition called 'Stolen Feathers' by artist Þórdís Alda Sigurðardóttir.

Akureyri Swimming Pool Swimming Pool Party

August 31, 17:00 - 19:00

DJ Arnar Ari will spin records, poolside.

Flóran

Næturbrölt

Runs until September 30

Exhibition called 'Night Stride' by artist Sigrún Guðmundsdóttir.

Galtalækur

Living Room Concert

August 31, 13:00

Hilda Torfadóttir and Snorri Guðvarðarson invite guests to a living room concert. Hot chocolate and traditional Icelandic doughnuts offered after the concert.

Græni Hatturin

Retro Stefson

August 30, 22:00

At this point Retro Stefson does not need much more introduction. They tour Europe like crazy with their groovy sounds and rock a party anywhere. If it happens that you don't know who we are talking about, just search for their song Glow and let it all go. Free admission!

Airwaves Warm Up

August 31, 22:00

Iceland Airwaves music festival hosts



Hooray! Akureyri Is A Jolly Good Fellow

Akureyri Town Festival. All over Akureyri

August 30 - September 1

When it comes to the birthday of the capital of the north, they like to party with a capital P. Music, magic, art and exhibitions are guaranteed and if you are lucky maybe glitter, confetti and flying elves too! This year the theme of the festival is multiculturalism, because (believe it or not) there are over 60 different ethnicities living in Akureyri. Do not miss the international kitchen, the DJ swimming pool party or the Iceland Airwaves pre-party! Heaps of free events included during the festive weekend. **KN**

Photo by Auðunn Níelsson

a pre-party before the real deal.

Performers include some big names and promising newcomers such as Ylja, Grísalappalísa, Pedro Pilatus and Hermigervill. Free admission!

Sigrún Stella, Alma Rut & Maja Eir September 12, 21:00

The singing ladies Sigrún Stella, Alma Rut and Maja Eir all return home from the world to host a cosy concert night. Admission 1,500 ISK.

Hof Culture Center Photo exhibition 'The Musicians of the North' by Daniél Starrason.

August 30, 18:00

Symphony Orchestra of North Iceland plays Mozart

August 30, 20:00

Conductor Wolfgang Trommer and soloist Zsuzsa Debre perform music by Mozart. Free admission!

Hjalti and Lára

August 30, 22:00

In this concert Hjalti and Lára will play some of their new songs.

Hamrar

August 31, 13:00 - 16:00

Photo and film exhibition featuring Akureyri between 1907 - 1969.

International Culture

August 31, 13:00 - 17:00

Various activities from different countries take place. Event includes games for children, flea market and an international kitchen, where visitors can taste food from over 20 different countries.

Hvannandsbræður & Guests

August 31, 22:30

Local celebrities of Akureyri will perform with the band Hvannandsbræður, who will play some

of their best known songs.

Magician Einar Mikael

September 1, 11:00

Einar Mikael will put on his kick ass show with illusions and magic tricks. And not just that, he will also teach how to do magic tricks.

Listagilið

ART ART ART

August 30, 09:00 - 23:00

Akureyri Town Fest celebrations continue. DJ Arnar Ari will spin records, artists paint in the parking lot, and a food market opens in the port between RUB 23 and Eymundsson at 13:00. SisterSister play music at 14:00. Don't forget the exhibition at the gallery!

Retro Stefson Karnival

August 31, 20:30 - 23:00

Rúnar Eff will warm up the crowd with songs from his new album 'Me and You,' before Retro Stefson take the stage with guests Helena Eyjólfsdóttir, Pálmi Gunnarsson, Elddísirnar and the magician Einar Mikael.

Kaffi Ilmur

Chess Tournament

August 31, 14:00

For all those black & white square maniacs out there!

Municipal Library of Akureyri

Elfbooks

Every Monday through Friday

Exhibition by artist Guðlaugur Arason.

Dalvík

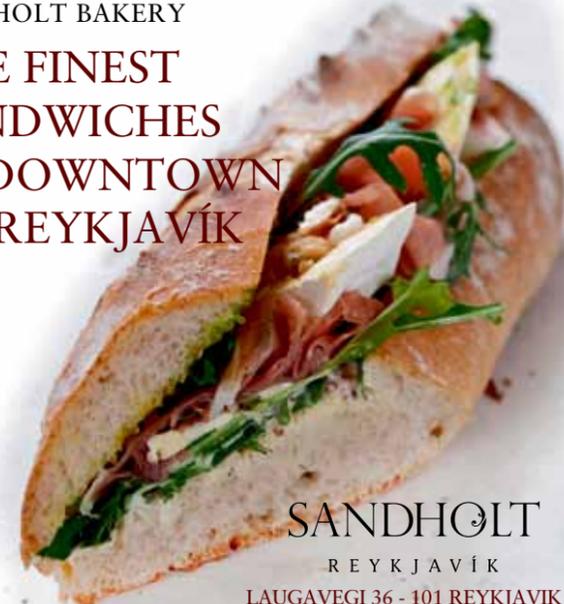
Berg Culture House

Tólfthi September

Opening September 12

SANDHOLT BAKERY

THE FINEST SANDWICHES IN DOWNTOWN OF REYKJAVÍK



SANDHOLT

REYKJAVÍK

LAUGAVEGI 36 - 101 REYKJAVÍK

MONDAY - FRIDAY 7.30 - 18.15. SATURDAY 7.30 - 17.30. SUNDAY 8.30-17.00

OUTSIDE

REYKJAVÍK

The art exhibition '12th of September' features paintings by the artist Freymóður Jóhannsson, born on September 12.

Byggðasafn Hvoll The North In The North

June 2 - March 1 2014
An exhibit about Greenland and its history. There are several artifacts from Greenland on show.

Húsavík Gamli Baukur 'Lets Talk Local' Comedy Show

Every day at 15:30
A daily hour-long comedy show at 15:30. The show is presented in English and takes listeners on an entertaining and informative journey through Húsavík.

East Iceland

Egilsstaðir

Sláturhúsið
Þetta Vilja Börnin Sjá
August 30 - September 26
An art competition showcasing art from children's books. The exhibited contestants of 'Þetta Vilja Börnin Sjá' ("This Is What The Children Want To See") are vying for the Dimmalimm illustration prize which is awarded in January.

Seyðisfjörður

Skaftafell Center for Visual Art
'Fancy-Cake in the Sun'
September 7 to February 2014
Swiss artist Dieter Roth (1930-1998) started visiting Seyðisfjörður in 1990, leaving a big mark on the local art scene and cultural life. Now fifteen years after his death, a retrospective exhibit curated by his son Björn Roth showcases print art Dieter made from '93.

Bananas

Runs until September 2
In this evolving exhibit, Danish artists group A Kassen explores the connection between Icelandic nature, bananas and aluminium.

South Iceland

Flúðir

All over Flúðir
Harvest Festival
September 7

If you've ever wanted to experience an Icelandic harvest festival, we can think of no better place to do so than in Flúðir. There will also be a riding event for those adventurous enough to climb onto the mighty Icelandic steed.

Hafnarfjörður

Hafnarborg
Indications - Buildings Within A Building
August 30 - October 27

An exhibition exploring the ambiguous and complex experience of the art gallery. The exhibition includes new work by Elin Hansdóttir, Ilmur Stefánsdóttir, Marcos Zotes and Theresa Himmer as well as the work Conical Intersect, made in 1975 by Gordon Matta-Clark.

Conical Intersect

August 31, 14:00
The screening of Artist and Architect Gordon Matta-Clark's 1975 film 'Conical Intersect,' followed by discussions.

Lunch Time Concert

September 3, 12:00
Pianist Antonia Hevesi and Sólrún Sopran put on a free lunchtime concert.

Hveragerði

LÁ Art

The Landscape of Time
Runs until September 15
The exhibition showcases two Icelanders Ásgrímur Jónsson and Arngunnur Ýr, artists from very different eras, and explores how they saw the world differently.



One Love

Love's Awakening Seminar. Sólheimar, Selfoss

August 31 - September 1, 41,600 ISK

From the people who brought you Dance Meditation at KEX, comes a weekend seminar called, 'Love's Awakening.' If you want to get away from it all while becoming one with everything, Sólheimar in Selfoss is the ideal location. Individuals, couples and families are all welcome at this three day event which emphasises meditation and movement. The program includes a follow up sessions ten days after the seminar to keep the positive energy flowing. **AB**

Hvolsvöllur

All over Hvolsvöllur
Kjötsúpa Festival

August 30 to September 1
Visitors eager to try the countryside's kjötsúpa ("meat soup") have an opportunity to do so in Hvolsvöllur.

Keflavík

Reykjanes Art Museum
Pabbi Minn Er Röinn

Open all summer
A part of the museum's boat collection, featuring more than 20 boats and accessories.
Brúðir Konu Meyja
Open all summer
A collection of dolls wearing an assortment of outfits, including the traditional Icelandic national costume.

Kaffi Duus

Beer Festival

September 7, 17:00
The first of what will hopefully become an annual festival, the beer festival offers guests to taste a variety of beers brewed in Iceland.

Mosfellsbær

Gljúfrasteinn
Open all summer
The home of Icelandic Nobel laureate Halldór Laxness whose novels children are still forced to read in school. There are audio guided tours in Icelandic, Danish, English and German. Visitors are recommended to book ahead by calling 586 8066.

Home Turf Concert

September 1, 16:00
It's time for the Mosfellsbær town festival, and pianist Halldór Sveinsson joins with violinist Sigrún Harðardóttir to play some classic folk tunes by celebrated Sigfús Halldórsson, Þórarinn Guðmundsson and Jón Múli.

Selfoss

Run and Ride

September 7 from 11:00
For the sporty tourists out there, there is a half marathon, as well as a bicycle race. Contestants also get free entry into the local swimming pool to cool down after the race.

Westman Islands

Pompei of the North
On permanent display
Excavation project at the site of the 1973 volcanic eruption on the island of Heimaey.

West Iceland

Borgarnes

The Icelandic Settlement Centre
The Settlement Exhibition

On permanent display
A thirty minute-long multi-media exhibit that provides insight into the

settlement of Iceland, from the first man to step foot on the island, to the establishment of the world's first parliament, Þingvellir. Admission is 2,400 ISK.

The Egils Saga Exhibition

On permanent display
Located in the stone-walled basement of the Centre, this exhibit leads visitors through the colourful saga of Egill Skallagrímsson, one of Iceland's first settlers and greatest heroes.

Ísafjörður

Edinborgar húsið

Edda Erlendsdóttir
September 5, 20:00
Pianist Edda Erlendsdóttir received the president's Falcon medal in 2010 for her lifelong contribution to the Icelandic music scene.

Kjós

All over Kjós

Delicacies In Kjós
August 31
Local food festival offers tourists and travellers to get a taste of the countryside.

Stykkishólmur

Vatnasafnið / Library of Water
Water, Selected

On permanent display
An ongoing exhibition with twenty four columns filled with glacier water from all over the country.

To Place

On permanent display
An audio exhibit offering insight into the Icelandic psyche, where you can listen to recordings of people talking about the weather.



Best located downtown hotel

in Keflavík

5 min from the airport

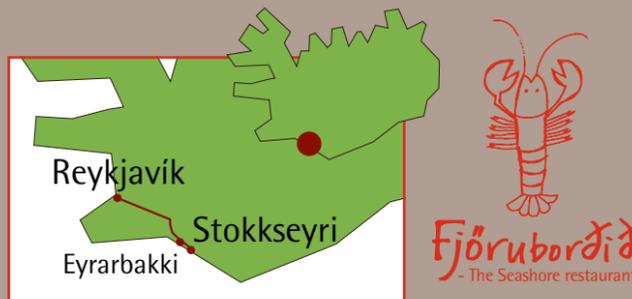


contact us now
tel: +354-4209800
www.airporthotel.is

by the sea
and a delicious lobster
at Fjörubordid in Stokkseyri



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



> Only 45 minutes drive from Reykjavík

Eyrarbraut 3, 825 Stokkseyri, Iceland · Tel. +354 483 1550
Fax. +354 483 1545 · info@fjorubordid.is · www.fjorubordid.is
Summer opening hours: Mon - Sun 12:00 to 22:00



Variety of fresh
seafoods and
lamb from local
fisheries and
farmers



Cakes and cooky buffet
on Saturday and Sunday
afternoons 14:00-17:00



seafood
restaurant
With a splendid view
(354) 483 1000 - www.hafidblaa.is

Come for
the view
stay for
the food.

WHALE FRIENDLY



We don't sell whale meat

Asia – Austurlandhraðlestin – Babalú – Caruso
 C for Cookies – Durum – Fish and Chips – Garðurinn
 Gamla Ísland/Old Island – Grænn Kostur – Haiti Hornið
 Höfnin – Iceland Marina or Slippbarinn Italia – Jómfrúin
 Kryddlegin Hjörtu – Krua Thai – Krúska – Kopar – Mar
 Lifandi Markaður – Noodle Station – Nora Magasin
 Svarta Kaffi – Piccola – Italiano – Pisa Ristorante
 Potturinn og Pannan – Rossopomodoro – Shalimar
 Sólón – Thai Restaurant / Noodle House – Thorvaldsen
 Uno – Við Tjörnina – Volcano Center – Dj Grill – Tapas
 Canarias – Kaffi Ilmur – Kung Fu Sticks – Thai Keflavík
 Vitinn Restauran – Gamli Baukur – Cafe Skuld
 Salka Restaurant – Pakkhúsið Bistro/Bar – Salka Coffee
 House – Naustið Restaurant – Sæferðir í Stykkishólm
 Bræðraborg – Kaffi Ísól – Galdrasafnið á Hólmavík

Whaling is cruel and unnecessary

Information about whale friendly restaurants can be found at
www.icewhale.is



IFAW
 INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

ice whale

beer MONTH AT KAFFIBARINN

Over 100 types of beer!

All the icelandic beers, plus a huge selection from brewers such as Mikkeller, Brew Dog and Chimay.



more info:
www.facebook.com/kaffibarinn

icelandic
 FISH & CHIPS

Organic bistro

Creating a tradition

Tryggvgata 8/Geirsgata, 101 Rvk
 Tel: 511-1118
 Open: mon-sat 11:30-21:00/sun 17:00-21:00

F D

FOR YOUR MIND, BODY AND SOUL



Spice Up Your Life

Kitchen

Laugavegur 60A, 101 Reykjavík,
 Opening hours: Mon: 17:30 - 22:00
 Tue - Fri: 12:00 - 14:00, 17:30 - 22:00
 Sat - Sun: 17:30 - 22:00

What We Think

Interesting and tasty food but the rest is a mess.

Flavour:

Nepalese

Ambiance:

Art of Noise or total silence

Service:

Service?

Price for 2 (with drinks):

15,000-20,000 ISK



Nepal, home to mountains that are magnets for freeze-dried corpses, sky burials and the sticky hash that may have killed Bruce Lee. They also make really tasty food. And one of those food places is in Reykjavík—would you look at that?

The notes struck in Nepalese cuisine will be familiar to fans of Indian food but with a distinct regional difference. They have borrowed somewhat from Chinese and Southeast Asian cuisine with dishes such as dumplings. The most noticeable thing about Nepalese cuisine to me is their love of anything acidic and tart, such as lime, lemon, tamarind, vinegar and plain yoghurt. Rice also has a starring role, even more so than in most Indian regional cuisine.

The best thing about Kitchen is, you guessed it, the kitchen. But the rest is an absolute migraine-inducing cacophony. The food is great and I'll

get to that but let's first look at the problems.

Firstly, they have no website, except a blank page that simply says 'Under Construction', and a very limited web presence. It's 2013 and it has been like this for a while. Nobody is asking for a flashy Flash site with a mission statement and a row of dancing mangos – just a menu, 3 photos and contact info.

Secondly, they don't seem to be able to stick to their strange opening hours. I have tried to go there several times in the past and always found it to be closed. To be fair, they seem to be doing better with that lately.

Thirdly, the ambience is strange. They started by blasting a Bollywood version of Moments in Love by Art of Noise and then absolute silence for the next two hours. There was one other occupied table in the place so it made things pretty awkward.

Fourthly, the service is unreliable. There were mix-ups with the orders, they far too long to let us know that items we had ordered were unavailable and the overall service would have made a sloth scream with impatience.

Fifthly, it's called "Kitchen." Which is a weird and un-Googleable name.

My first course was two slices of eggplant with cheese, breaded and fried. Came with Khatta Meetha tamarind sauce for dipping (1,190 ISK). Breaded and fried is usually a safe bet and this went really well with the sauce.

My dining partner picked the Choyala marinated lamb (1,490 ISK) with typically Nepalese beaten rice (baji). I love those darn rice flakes. The dish had not been drenched in sauce and

it looked quite dry to my sauce-reared Icelandic eyes. But it was actually perfect. Recommended.

I ordered the mixed shish kebab with prawn, chicken, lamb and veggies (4,090 ISK), with naan bread, saffron rice and lime chutney ordered on the side. The shish kebab was good but not that remarkable—could have used a slightly larger portion. The saffron rice was pilaf and in it nestled whole cinnamon sticks and star anise fried a deep brown. The lime chutney did not work at all despite me being very used to the odd taste of pickled lemons in North-African cuisine. All I could think of was a washing detergent. But it might be an acquired taste.

My dining partner had the Murgh Masala chicken (2,990 ISK), which the waiter warned us was quite heavy on honey. True to his word it was a bit sweeter than either of us would have preferred. I'd recommend asking for it spicy and hot and low on the honey. To drink we had the Masi Campofiorin 2009.

Dessert was a mango ice cream a bit like mochi ice cream in texture or even Turkish dondurma. A fresh, clean mango flavour and completely wonderful.

I had the traditional Nepalese dessert which was like a thick yoghurt pudding with a hint of saffron. Very light and slightly tart. Good, but not as good as the mango ice cream.

The price is right, the food is mostly good, I welcome the added variety in the restaurant scene but the kitchen at Kitchen is let down by big picture.

✍ RAGNAR EGILSSON
 📷 MAGNÚS ANDERSEN

the finest Thai restaurant in Iceland
Ban Thai



the best thai food
 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013



1/10 Best Restaurants In Iceland
 Best Goddamn Restaurant 2011

Tel : 692-0564
 Laugavegur 130, ofan við Hlemm
www.banthai.is

Also Recommend.....
 yummi yummi Tel: 588-2121

Hverfisgata 123, 105 Rvk.

www.yummy.is



Aunt Flóra

Kaffi Flóra

Laugardalur Botanical Gardens
Opening hours:
Opening Hours: May 1 – October 1
from 10:00 to 22:00

What We Think:

The food just above average but the surroundings push it up half a point

Flavour:

Fresh, light, beef, greens, seafood

Ambiance:

A nice, quiet menopause

Service:

Friendly and a little nervous

Four course menu for two (no drinks): 3500-5000 ISK



A glass oasis in Reykjavík's botanical garden. Perennial favourite of sewing circles and book clubs. Your aunt is sprinting over there, wild-eyed with her open-faced sandwich trident as we speak.

There's a good reason The Grapevine picked Café Flóra as the best kept secret in the Reykjavík restaurant fauna, as you will have a hard time finding Café Flóra. Basically just walk into the botanical garden and wander for a bit until you see a greenhouse. I am thunderously ecstatic to see that the miserable summer we've had has killed off all the wasps, as last time I was there Café Flóra was swarming with them.

Shrouded in vegetation but otherwise pretty unassuming (dare I say a little tacky?), the view is obstructed by water

pipes that run like prison bars across the paned windows. There's a little koi pond in the middle and it has a slight cafeteria feel to it. Like at Gló (another favourite with the auntie-brigade), you order at the counter. It seems like they will do table service if they're not too busy but otherwise you pick it up at the counter too, like a good little worker wasp (are there "worker wasps?" Wasps always seemed like the bad boys of the insect world. Bumming smokes in yellow jackets and whistling at lady bugs—that sort of thing).

There are three types of food on the menu: Open-faced sandwiches, salads and miscellaneous. Most of the vegetables and greens seem to be taken from their own garden and are absolutely delicious. I can't vouch for the source of the other raw ingredients but I have no real complaints there either. There were some missteps in the handling of the ingredients though.

My sisters and I ordered the green salad with feta cheese, beetroot and apples (1790 ISK), the lobster salad with sweet potatoes, pumpkin seeds, pickled fennel and oranges (2350 ISK) and the rucola and cucumber salad with ginger-marinated strips of roast beef (2250 ISK). We also tried the soup of the day, which was a seafood soup with salmon and shrimp (950 ISK), and decided to share the smoked duck breast with apple-horseradish and orange (2190 ISK) and the bruschetta with beetroot and oranges (1390 ISK).

The leafy greens were universally excellent, although the kitchen seems to be more than a little obsessed with oranges and roasted pumpkin seeds and should maybe expand a little beyond that. They were generous with the lobster in the lobster salad, well cooked and, thankfully, not heavy on

the garlic. They should skip on the sweet potatoes, though. The ginger beef could have used more ginger but was otherwise lovely.

The salmon was good but the shrimp were the frozen mini ones you see everywhere in Iceland. I would kill for a local fishmonger selling fresh shrimp and shellfish out of a vat of ice. How come this doesn't exist in Iceland?

We should have stuck to the salads. The smoked duck breast was bone dry and the caramelised onions struggled to lend it any kind of moisture. The beetroot and orange bruschetta was fine for what it was but I'm still struggling to see why we ordered that, as none of us are particularly fond of that combo. But the homemade pesto that came with the bruschetta was damn good and I was able to wash the bruschetta down with a Peroni. Peroni and I have this sentimental thing going on and I'm glad they had it.

After we left, everyone was telling me that we should have ordered the chicken in beer dough. I can't vouch for it as it sounded far too heavy for lunch but maybe you should give it a try.

For Danish open-faced sandwiches go to Jómfrúin, but if you want to enjoy a lovely salad in the middle of a botanical garden then this is your best, and only, bet.

RAGNAR EGILSSON
MAGNÚS ANDERSEN



SNAPS

BISTRO - BAR



#109



Lífið er saltfiskur

Dill is a Nordic restaurant with its focus on Iceland, the pure nature and all the good things coming from it.

It does not matter if it's the ingredients or the old traditions, we try to hold firmly on to both.

There are not many things that make us happier than giving life to old traditions and forgotten ingredients with modern technique and our creative mind as a weapon.



Sturlugata 5 • 101 Reykjavík
Tel. +354 552 15 22 • www.dillrestaurant.is

ÓÐINSTORG 101 REYKJAVÍK ÍSLAND SNAPSBISTRO.IS
Snapsbistro@snapsbistro.is +354 5116677



SKYY

LOUNGE & BAR
CENTERHOTEL ARNARHVOLL

THE BAR WITH ALTITUDE

**HAPPY HOUR BETWEEN
17.00-19.00 EVERY DAY
LARGE BEER 500 KR**

WHISKY
COCKTAILS
FINE WINES
LIGHT BITES
BREATHTAKING VIEWS

TOP FLOOR CENTERHOTEL ARNARHVOLL
Ingólfsstræti 1 • 101 Reykjavík
Open from 17:00 til midnight

Tel 595-8545
www.centerhotels.com/sky

Transfer complete



Now on Laugavegur 17



580 7500

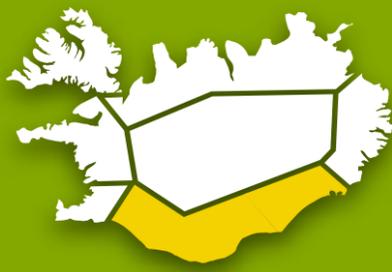


Laugavegur 17



verslun@macland.is

 **macland**
www.macland.is



South Iceland



www.south.is

Get the Official Tourist Guide
in any Information center



Orkusýn
 Hellisheiði • +354 412 5800
 orkusyn@orkusyn.is • www.orkusyn.is

A Geothermal Energy Exhibition
 Stop by the Hellisheiði Geothermal Power Plant and visit the Geothermal Energy Exhibition in the visitors centre. The plant is a striking example of how geothermal energy is harnessed in a sustainable manner in Iceland. Experienced guides give informative presentations backed by multimedia shows about sustainable green energy as a global energy source. Visit an exclusive collection of minerals and stones. Enjoy our coffee shop and browse through our gift shop of local arts and crafts. Open daily from 09:00 – 17:00.

Lindin
 Lindarbraut 2, 840 Laugarvatn • +354 486 1262 • lindin@laugarvatn.is • www.laugarvatn.is

Lindin Restaurant & Café Bistro, stands on a firm foundation of culinary excellence that has attracted patrons from around the world. Lindin is located in the village of Laugarvatn, right beside the lovely natural steam baths and pool at Fontana Spa. The 45 minute scenic drive from Reykjavik takes you through enchanting landscapes between Geysir/Gullfoss and Thingvellir, making this an excellent choice for a day's journey.

Arctic adventures
 Laugavegur 11, Reykjavík • +354 562 7000
 info@adventures.is • www.adventures.is

Iceland's premier eco-friendly adventure tour operator
 From spewing volcanoes and vast glaciers to rugged coastlines and raging rivers, Arctic Adventures is Iceland's premier eco-friendly adventure tour operator. With seven base camps scattered around Iceland's great outdoor playground, we are the local specialists just about everywhere adventure is to be found! With a full menu of glacier hiking, river rafting, trekking, sea kayaking, caving, snowmobiling, super-jeep safaris, snorkelling, surfing, quad biking, and much more, the possibilities are truly endless! Arctic Adventures offers everything from day tours to multi-sport expeditions, rain or shine, all year round. Join us and explore a wilderness like none other!

Kaffi Krús
 Austurvegi 7, 800 Selfossi • +354 482 1266
 http://www.kaffikrus.is/

Café/Restaurant Kaffi Krús has been around for 20 years. It's located in one of the oldest houses in Selfoss, built in 1931. The menu has 60 different courses and every day we offer a variety of 8-12 homebaked cakes. Seating available on the terrace, ideal for a relaxing refreshment on sunny days.



Saga Centre
 Ormsvellir 12, Hvolsvöllur • +354 487 8781
 njala@njala.is • www.njala.is

The SAGA CENTER is a must visit place:

1. Njal's Saga Exhibition is the most famous of the Icelandic Sagas. Available both in English and German.
2. The Saga Hall is a replica of a Long House from Viking times. Refreshments in historical settings.
3. Model of Thingvellir parliament site in year 1000.
4. Co-op Mercantile Museum.
5. Souvenir Shop.
6. Information Centre.
7. Njal's Saga Tapestry. Anyone can take a stitch

LÁ Art Museum
 Austurbergi 21, Hveragerði • +354 483 1727
 listasafn@listasafnarnesinga.is • www.listasafnarnesinga.is

Give visit a chance. Surprised?
 This museum is a joint cultural venture owned and run by the municipalities in the Árnesinga County, located in the geothermal town Hveragerði. The mission of the museum is that it may be a place where all are made to feel welcome. Ambitious exhibitions of modern and contemporary art are set up in four spacious rooms. The bright seating area offers visitors the chance to relax in a peaceful setting whilst browsing through wealth of art related material supplied. The children's corner gives the younger visitors a chance to enjoy themselves and the museum also houses a small café.

Hótel Selfoss
 Eyravegi 2, Selfoss • +354 480 2500
 info@hotelfselfoss.is • www.hotelfselfoss.is

Welcome to Hotel Selfoss. Who says you can't have it all?
 A stone's throw from Reykjavik and a perfect base from which to explore Iceland's exotic south. Hotel Selfoss is located on the banks of the majestic Ölfusá River in the town of Selfoss. The Hotel facilities includes: Restaurant, bar, spa, meeting rooms, cinema, souvenir shop and hairdresser. The Hotel's Riverside restaurant delivers a superb dining experience in one of Iceland's most architecturally celebrated spaces. Riverside spa is a richly equipped spa that features a steam room, sauna, hot pool, rainwater showers, relaxation room treatment rooms and lounge.

Arcanum
 Main base: Ytri-Sólheimar 1 • +354 487 1500
 info@arcanum.is • www.arcanum.is

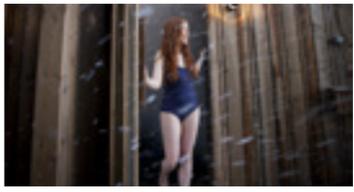
Glacier tours
 ARCANUM is a tour company in south Iceland. We are situated by the glacier Mýrdalsjökull the southernmost glacier in Iceland. The company specialise in glacier tours. We offer snowmobile tours, glacier walks, super-jeep tours, volcano tours and ice climbing. Tours require no special skills. For the snowmobile tour the driver need to have a valid driving licence. The tours can be enjoyed by people of all levels in good health.



SHARE YOUR adventure with us
 www.WinterWonderland.is

TAKE A photo! hashtag it #WWSOUTH
 Visit South Iceland

Fontana
 Hverabraut 1, Laugarvatn • +354 486 1400
 fontana@fontana.is • www.fontana.is



Laugarvatn Fontana is a place where you come to relax and experience authentic Icelandic nature while relaxing in the warm geothermal pools and natural steam rooms. Hot, healing steam simmers directly from the ground at Fontana through grids in the cabin floors of this newly decorated wellness center where nature meets tradition.

The baths vary in depth, size and temperature and the steam rooms that have been built over natural hot springs that has been used in this purpose since 1929. Fontana is situated by the beautiful lake Laugarvatn and you can enjoy the spectacular views from the sauna or the pools. Open every day from 11am-9pm

Vatnsholt
 Vatnsholt 2, 801 Selfoss • +354 482 4829
 info@stayiniceland.is • www.hotelvatnsholt.is



Vatnsholt is a newly renovated country lodge in a beautiful setting above the lake of Villingarholt. From Vatnsholt you will enjoy a magnificent view where you can easily spot the Westman islands (Vestmannaeyjar), the glacier of Eyjafjall (Eyjafjallajökull), the Tinda Mountains (Tindfjöll), the famous volcano Hekla and the slopes of Hella.

Árnanes
 Árnanesi 5, 781 Höfn • +354 478 1550
 arnanes@arnanes.is • www.arnanes.is

Árnanes Country Hotel
 Established 1993
 Welcome to Hotel Árnanes, a comfortable base for exploring Vatnajökull National Park with all its wonders like Jökulsárlón, the ice lagoon.

Expect a warm welcome at our family-run country hotel. We want you to feel home away from home.

We are located by the Road one, 6 km west of the town Höfn in the south-east of Iceland.



Hótel Höfn
 Víkurbraut, 780 Höfn • +354 478 1240
 info@hotelhofn.is • www.hotelhofn.is

Hótel Höfn is located in the center of town and has a breathtaking view over the magnificent glaciers, the circle of mountains and the fjord.

Hótel Höfn is a 3 star hotel with 68 comfortable rooms all equipped with a TV, radio, telephone, computer access and a private bath.

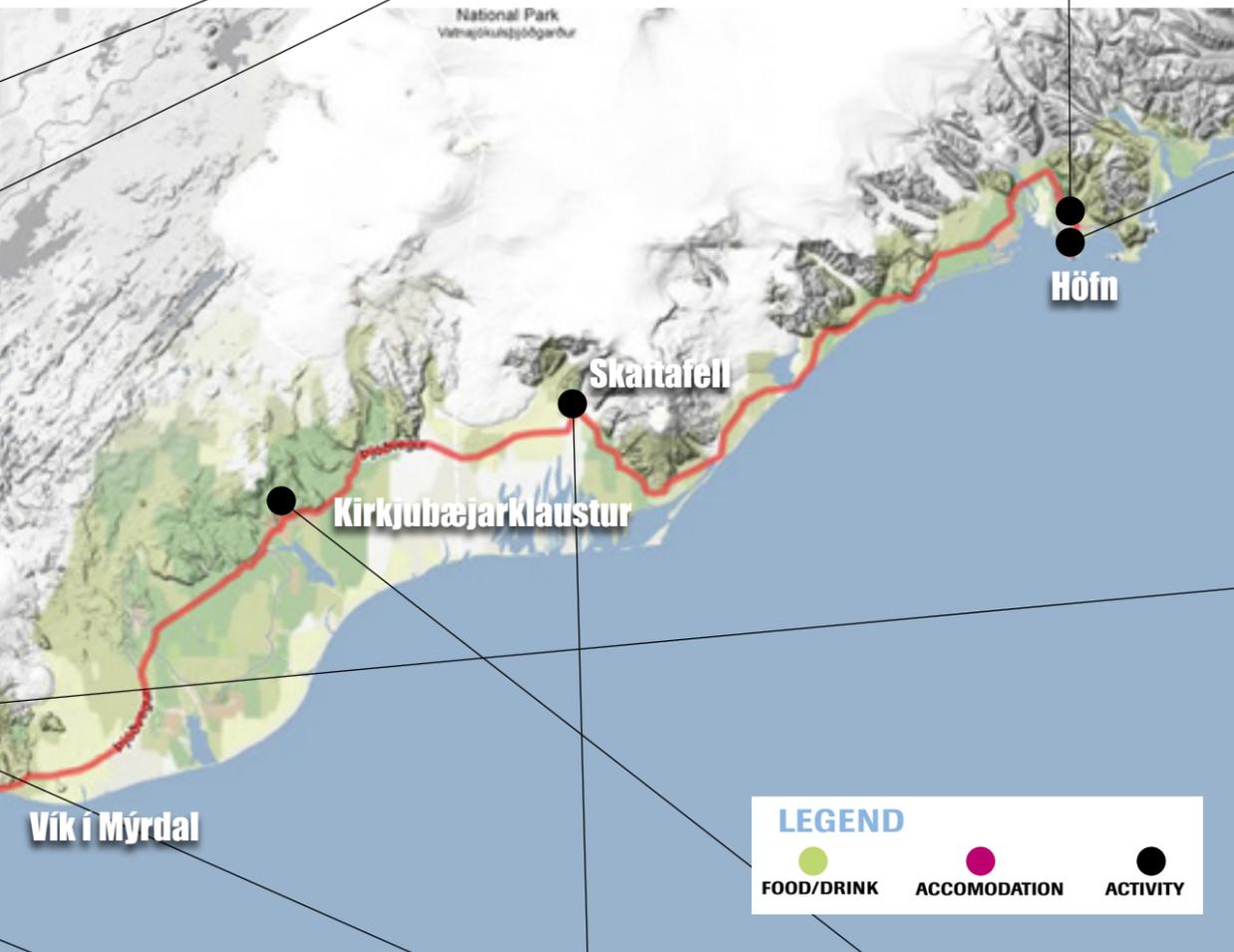
The restaurant "Ósinn" featuring local courses such as lobster, steaks, and pizza is on the ground floor. The hotel has a good conference facilities.

Bookings and more informations at hotelhofn.is

Café Sólheimajökull
 By Sólheimajökull, 871 Vík • +354 852 2252
 cafe@solheimajokull.is

Café Sólheimajökull is located at the tip of Sólheimajökull-glacier with a breathtaking view to the glacier at one hand and to the Atlantic ocean at the other. At our restaurant you get hot and cold drinks, hot soup, guiches, cakes and chocolates. We use local ingredients like trout from a nearby farmer, carrots from another and barley from the third.

Visit us in Katla Geopark, the restaurant is open all year around.



LEGEND

● FOOD/DRINK ● ACCOMODATION ● ACTIVITY

Hótel Vestmannaeyjar
 Vestmannabraut 28 • +354 481 2900
 hotelvestmannaeyjar@simnet.is • www.hotelvestmannaeyjar.is



Hótel Vestmannaeyjar allows guests to explore the islands breath-taking scenery while providing comfortable and relaxing accommodation with a high-level of service. The hotel provides direct access to the fantastic hiking and bird watching which the island offers, while also providing exciting activities and tours to help guests get the most out of their stay. Our bar and restaurant offers a sophisticated area for guests to socialise. Exquisite, locally sourced food, gives guests a true taste of the island!

Mountain Guides
 +354 587 9999 • mountainguides@mountainguides.is • www.mountainguides.is



Icelandic Mountain Guides' Glacier Walks are a safe but fun activity and a great way to experience the wonders of the Icelandic Nature. Glacier Walks are easy and accessible for both individuals and groups and have become one of the most popular tourism activity in Iceland. Icelandic Mountain Guides' Glacier Walks are operated every day, all year on Sólheimajökull glacier and in Skaftafell national park. Make Sure it's Mountain Guides.

Hótel Geirland
 Geirland, 880 Kirkjubæjarklaustur • +354 487 4677 • geirland@centrum.is • www.geirland.is



A unique experience in the countryside of Iceland, located only 2 km from Kirkjubæjar-klaustur. We offer total of 40 cozy rooms all with ensuite bathroom. Hótel Geirland is the perfect choice for nature lovers who like to walk, hike or simply enjoy the beautiful surroundings and northern lights. Our restaurant provides authentic Icelandic food straight from the farm. Mission of the hotel is to strive hard to provide high standard personal service to make the stay memorable and enjoyable for the guests.



Adventure tours Scheduled flights Air Charter services

Reykjavik

Höfn

Day tours to Vatnajökull Region

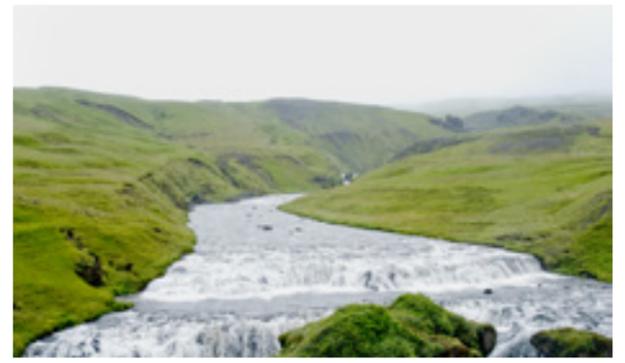
Discover the natural wonders of Vatnajökull glacier and glacier lagoon

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





Visit South Iceland
www.south.is



Members of South-Iceland Marketing Office:

Sveitarfélagið Árborg	www.arborg.is	Hekla Cabins - Rjúpnaveilir	www.rjupnavellir.is
Byggðasafn Árnesinga - Húsið	www.husid.com	Icelandic Horse World - visitor center	www.iceworld.is
Guðmundur Tyrfingsson - GT Travel	www.gtyrfingsson.is	Hótel Lækur	www.hotellaekur.is
Hótel Selfoss	www.hotelselfoss.is	Landborgir	www.landborgir.is
Bed and Breakfast	www.bandb.is	Árhús	www.arhus.is
Gesthús	www.gesthus.is	Guesthouse Nonni	www.bbiceland.com
Sea Side Cottages	www.seasidecottages.is	Rangárþing eystra	www.hvolsvollur.is
Guesthouse Kvöldstjarnan	www.kvoldstjarnan.is	Sögusetrið	www.njala.is
Fosstún	www.fosstun.is	Skógarsafn	www.skogasafn.is
Kaffi Krús	www.kaffikrus.is	Hellishólar	www.hellisholar.is
Fjöruborðið	www.fjorubordid.is	South Iceland Adventure	www.siadv.is
Rauða húsið	www.raudahusid.is	Southcoast Adventure	www.southadventure.is
Menam	www.menam.is	Country Hotel Anna	www.hotelanna.is
Handverksskúrin		Hótel Hvolsvöllur	www.hotelhvolsvollur.is
Geiri á Bakkanum	www.menningarstadir.123.is	Gestastofan Þorvaldseyri	www.icelanderupts.is
Gistiheimilið Bitra	www.guesthousebitra.is	Hótel Fjótshlíð / Smáratún	www.smaratun.is
Tryggvaskáli	www.tryggvaskali.is	Eldstö	www.eldsto.is
The Bobby Fisher Center	www.fishersetur.is	Kaffi Langbrók	www.rang.is/langbrok
Hveragerðisbær	www.hveragerdi.is	Eldfjallaskálarnir Húsadal / Volcano Huts	www.volcanohuts.com
Hveragarðurinn	www.hveragerdi.is	Söluskálinn Björkin	
Listasafn Árnesinga	www listasafnarnesinga.is	Skálakot	www.skalakot.com
Hótel Ör	www.hotelork.is	Welcome Hotel Lambafell	www.lambafell.is
Frumskógar	www.frumskogar.is	Hótel Skógar	www.hotelskogar.is
Iceland Activities	www.icelandactivities.is	Hótel Skógafoss	www.hotelskogafoss.is
Hofland setrið	www.hoflandsetrid.is	Mýrdalshreppur	www.vik.is
Kjöt & Kúnnst	www.kjotogkunst.net	Kötlusetur	www.kotlusetur.is
Dalakaffi	www.dalakaffi.is	Halldórkaffi	www.halldorskaffi.is
Hótel Frost og funi	www.frostogfuni.is	Þakgil - camping site with cabins	www.thakgil.is
Sveitarfélagið Ölfus	www.olfus.is	Arcanum-ferðaþjónusta	www.arcanum.is
Eldhestar	www.eldhestar.is	Íslenskir Fjallaleiðsögumenn	www.mountainguides.is
Hellisheiðarvirkjun	www.orkusyn.is	Víkurþjón / Icewear	www.icewear.is
Sólhestar	www.solhestar.is	Hótel Lundi	www.hotellundi.is
Hendur í Höfn	www.hendurihofn.is	Hótel Katla - Höfðabrekka	www.hotelkatla.is
Gistiheimilið Hjarðaból	www.hjardarboli.is	Café Sólheimajökull	
Núpar	www.nupar.is	Hótel Vík í Mýrdal	www.hoteledda.is/hotels/hotel-edda-vik
Flóahreppur	www.floahreppur.is	Ströndin restaurant	www.strondin.is
Gistiheimilið Lambastöðum	www.lambastadir.is	Skaftárhreppur	www.klaustur.is
Iceland South Coast Travel	www.isct.is	Kirkjubæjrstofa	www.kbkl.is
Þingborg	www.thingborg.net	Ferðaþjónustan Hunkubökkum	www.hunkubakkar.is
Countryhotel Vatnsholt	www.hotelvatnsholt.is	Hótel Laki	www.hotellaki.is
Gaulverjaskóli Hostel	www.south-hostel.is	Hótel Geirland	www.geirland.is
Grímsnes- og Grafningshreppur	www.gogg.is	Hótel Klaustur	www.icelandairhotels.is/hotels/klaustur
Eco village	www.solheimar.is	Hólaspport	www.holaspport.is
Sesseljuhús	www.sesseljuhus.is	Hólaskjól	www.eldgja.is
Gallerí Vala	www.solheimar.is	Íslandia hotel Núpar	www.islandiahotel.is
Hótel Grímsborgir	www.grimsborgir.is	Sveitarfélagið Hornafjörður	www.hornafjordur.is
Útilífsmiðstöðin Úlfjótuvatn	www.ulfjotsvatn.is	Skaftafellsstofa	www.vjp.is
Sólheimar Gesthús	www.solheimar.is	Þórbergissetur	www.thorbergssetur.is
Ion Luxury Adventure Hotel	www.ionhotel.is	Hofsnes	www.hofsnes.com
Bláskógabyggð	www.blaskogabyggd.is	Jökulsárlón	www.jokulsarlon.is
Ferðaþjónustan Úthlíð	www.uthlid.is	Hólmur Ferðaþjónusta	www.eldhorn.is/mg/gisting
Kerlingarfjöll	www.kerlingarfjoll.is	Hoffell / GlacierWorld	www.hoffell.com
Friðheimar	www.fridheimar.is	Gerði Gistiheimili	www.farmholidays.is/FarmDetails.aspx?No=595
Skálholt	www.skalholt.is	Hali Guesthouse	www.hali.is
Iceland Riverjet	www.icelandriverjet.com	Country Hotel Smyrlabjörg	www.smyrlabjorg.is
Farmhotel Efstidalur 2	www.efstidalur.is	Tjaldsvæðið Höfn	www.campsite.is
Hótel Geysir	www.geysircenter.is	Brunnhóll Ferðaþjónusta	www.brunnholl.is
Guesthouse Skálinn	www.gljasteinn.is	Fosshótel Vatnajökull	www.fosshotel.is/is/fosshotel/fosshotel-vatnajokull
Gullfosskaffi	www.gullfoss.is	Hótel Höfn	www.hotelhofn.is
Hótel Gullfoss	www.hotelgullfoss.is	Glacier guides	www.glaciarguides.is
Arctic rafting	www.arcticrafting.is	Local Guide / Öræfaferðir	www.localguide.is
Bjarkarhóll ehf	www.garn.is	Humarhöfnin	www.humarhofnin.is
Iceland Safari	www.icelandsafari.com	Vatnajökull travel	www.vatnajokull.is
Geysir Green Guesthouse	www.geysirgreenguesthouse.is	Ís & ævintýri /Jöklaþjónustur	www.glacierjeeps.is
Kjóastaðir 2	www.goldencirclecleriding.is	Ríki Vatnajökuls	www.visitvatnajokull.is
Laugarvatn Adventure	www.caving.is	Hof 1 Hótel	www.hof1.is
Laugarvatn Fontana	www.fontana.is	Atlantsflug	www.atf.is
Gallerí Laugarvatn	www.gallerilaugarvatn.is	Sagnheimar	www.sagnheimar.is
Lindin restaurant	www.laugarvatn.is	Sæheimar	www.saeheimar.is
Golden Circle Apartments	www.goldencircleapartments.is	Hótel Vestmannaeyjar	www.hotelvestmannaeyjar.is
Héraðsskólinn Hostel & Travel Centre	www.heradsskolinn.is	Hótel Eyjar	www.hoteleyjar.eyjar.is
Skeiða- og Gnúpverjahreppur	www.skeidgnup.is	Rib Safari	www.ribsafari.is
Steinsholt	www.steinsholt.is	Viking Tours	www.vikingtours.is
Vorsabær 2	www.vorsabae2.is	STUDIO 7	www.woolshop.is
Hótel Hekla Golfv.	www.hotelhekla.is	Kynnisferðir / Reykjavík Excursions	www.re.is
Hótel Hekla	www.hotelhekla.is	Snæland Grímsson	www.snaeland.is
Hrunamannahreppur	www.fludir.is	Allra handa / Iceland Excursions	www.grayline.is
Syðra Langholt	www.sydralangholt.is	Trex hóperðamiðstöð	www.trex.is
Hótel Flúðir	www.hotelfludir.is	Ferðaskrifstofan Esja	www.esjatravel.is
Ásahreppur	www.asahreppur.is	HL Adventure	www.hl.is
Kálfholt	www.kalfholt.is	Fjallamenn / Mountaineers of Iceland	www.mountaineers.is
Rangárþing ytra	www.ry.is	Katla Geopark	www.katlageopark.is
Hekluhestar	www.hekluhestar.is	Ferðafélag Íslands	www.fi.is
Hekluhestar	www.leirubakki.is	Norðurlug	www.heli.is
Herríðarhóll	www.herridarholl.is	Ernir	www.ernir.is
Hestheimar	www.hestheimar.is	Víkingaslóðir ehf.	www.vikingaslodir.is
Hótel Leirubakki	www.leirubakki.is	Pink Iceland	www.pinkiceland.is
Hótel Rangá	www.hotelranga.is	Harpa Yachts (Snekkjan ehf)	www.harpayachts.is
Sagnagarður	www.sagnagardur.land.is		
Hótel Highland	www.hotelhighland.is		
Hrauneyjar Guesthouse	www.hrauneyjar.is		