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ECONOMICS

Is Iceland still on sale?

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Laying low in Iceland...

MUSIC

Horseback riding with OYAMA, diving into Sónar, and MORE!

PROBLEMS

Homelessness in Iceland - what can be done?

SWEET VICTORY?

Iceland's David conquered the European Goliath... but what does it all mean?

Icelanders have been positively glowing (not to mention gloating) since the EFTA Court ruled in their favour in a historic verdict on the Icesave case. And who could blame them? After five years of uncertainty, the Icesave issue was finally resolved—in the best way any Icelander could have hoped for. No more Icesave press-conferences at the President's office. No more referendums. No more fearing that the repercussions of Landsbankinn's reckless actions would bankrupt the country. The President's gamble, and the nation's gamble, paid off in a big way. But does this mean Icelanders are back on track, free to load up on Range Rovers and re-engage in the reckless risk taking they so love? **Page 20**



Complete Reykjavík Listings

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Editorial | Anna Andersen

Are We Drinking the Kool-Aid, Iceland?

Anna's 21st editorial



Icelanders breathed a collective sigh of relief this week when EFTA ruled in its favour in the long-disputed Icesave case. Congratulations flew this way and that and Prime Minister Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir even did a little victory shake to show how happy she was to hear the news.

The Icesave dispute between Iceland and the UK and the Netherlands was one of those post-crash topics that came up ad nauseam for the last four years, refusing to go away not once, but three times. Now we're finally looking at the possibility of never having to talk about it again, the possibility of finally being able to get on with our lives and brighter future.

But haven't we also been talking about a "better" and "brighter" Iceland for the last four years? Of course "The Best Party" started as a joke, but it now runs the capital city and makes use of an e-democracy platform called "Better Reykjavík." And then we've seen parties spring up with names like "Solidarity" (Samstatða), "Dawn" (Dögun), and "Optimism" (Bjartsýnisflokkurinn). Not to mention, "Bright Future," which polls suggest is the third largest party running for parliament this spring.

What's more, these parties are literally fighting

each other for the rights to these New Age names. Shortly after Bright Future settled on its name last fall, a political group called New Future tried to get them to change it, albeit unsuccessfully. "We do not intend to change our name," party leader Guðmundur Steingrímsson said, "and we wish New Future a bright future."

So what exactly is this "New Iceland"? There's been all of this talk of it since the crash, but what exactly is it supposed to be, has it arrived, and if so, is it any different from the old Iceland? And why call it New Iceland when a New Iceland was already created in Canada more than one hundred years ago?

To be fair, it's not all just empty discourse, and regardless of how many slip-ups there have been, the radical effort being made to write a new Constitution pitting "New Iceland" ideas against the old money/establishment, is proof of that. Some of the businessmen that drove the country into the ground are being prosecuted, and despite the resurgence of the Independence Party, which laid the groundwork for the financial crash, the success of these new parties is a sign that people are still fed up with the old.

Now we can certainly all get together, fill our glasses halfway full and skál to a new day, to a better and brighter future, the best even, but let's be sure that it's not proverbial Kool-Aid that we're sipping on.

TRACK OF THE ISSUE



Everything Some of the Time Oyama

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One would think that a band that's been around for less than a year wouldn't be at the point of changing up their sound, but things haven't gone the usual way for these kids and they aren't about to slow down now – they told us all about it on a recent date, see page 28! On this track from their new EP 'I Wanna', we hear them veering away from the 90s slowcore of their early gigs last summer and into warmer, more psychedelic territory. A lovely way to liven up the winter doldrums.

FUN TRIVIA QUESTION!

Taken from the educational trivia game *Instant Iceland*

Q: The only Icelander on TIME magazine's list of 25 people to blame for the 2008 financial crisis is a former Mayor of Reykjavík, Prime Minister of Iceland and head of Iceland's Central Bank. What is his name?

- A** David Oddsson
- B** Hilmar Oddsson
- C** Jens Stoltenberg

Turn to page 27 for the answer!



Will You Be Grapevine's 'Tourist Of The Year 2013'?

We are now officially accepting nominations for "Tourist of the year 2013." Please submit your nominations to editor@grapevine.is to be considered. We will read them, post them to our website and print the best one come next January.

Note: To be eligible, the tourist (this can be you) must have visited Iceland in 2013.

What's The Deal With Those Crazy Icelandic Letters Yo?

Ð ð Þ þ Æ æ Ö ö

We thought we'd explain. We're ripping the idea off from the Icelandic magazine. Go read that magazine if you can. It's free.

We like spelling things using Icelandic letters like 'æ' and 'þ' and also those crazy accents over the vowels. Like Icelandic's inflight magazine—*IcelandairInfo*—says, the Icelandic language can use accents on all of the vowels, making them look all unique, like this: á, é, í, ó, ú, ö, ý (the accent also changes the pronunciation of the letters. The á in "kjáni" sounds quite different from the a in "asni", for instance). We also have an additional three letters. As *IcelandairInfo* notes:

æ (often written as ae) is pronounced like the i in tide.

ð (often written as d) is pronounced like the th in there

þ (often written as th) is pronounced like the th in think"

Here Is Your Kreisi Æcelandic Frase For Dis Issue!

"Jæja, er ekki kominn tími til að hætta að tala um Icesave"

(yah-yah, err eh-kke, come-in team-eh till ath hi-tah ath tah-lah oom Icesave?)

Ok, isn't it time we stop talking about Icesave?

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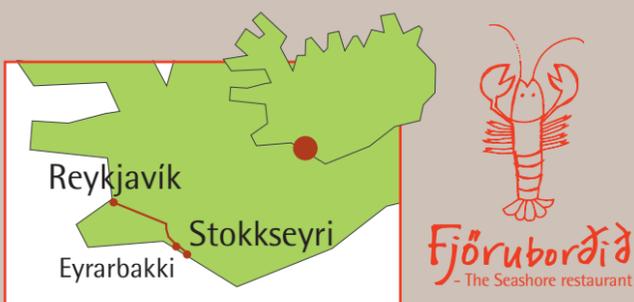


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Most Awesome Letter of the Issue

Icelandic President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson criticized ex British Prime Minister Gordon Brown in an interview with Sky News whilst at Davos for placing Iceland on Britain's Terrorism list. Personally I was grateful for Gordon Brown and his chancellor Alistair Darling. I love visiting Iceland and try to visit every other year. Last year I visited twice owing to the Northern Lights. Because I loved Iceland and everything Icelandic so much I foolishly invested over £65,000 in an ICESAVE account. Thanks to the actions of Gordon Brown and Alistair Darling I received all of my money bank promptly. An example of how much I love Iceland is that in the november of the year that Landsbanki et al collapsed my partner and I visited Iceland purely to provide some tourist Krona to the then ailing Icelandic economy, this despite the fact that at the time I still might have lost much of my savings. Walking down Skolavordustigur I slightly regretted my actions when I saw the the posters in shop windows decrying Brown

and Darling. President Grimsson, and all Icelanders, stop blaming others for the failures of Icelandic institutions, such as the Icelandic banks, the Icelandic entrepreneurs and in particular the Icelandic financial regulators and Icelandic politicians who should have prevented the collapse by properly regulating the Icelandic banks in the first place. Stop blaming others and look at yourselves.

Neil Sinclair

(PS In the highly unlikely chance of my winning "Most Awesome Letter" , my partner and I are visiting Iceland in May/ June 2013 to celebrate my birthday)

Dear Neil,

Not as unlikely as you'd think!

Sorry to hear you were embroiled in the Icesave mess! Amidst all the economic ballyhoo and brouhaha, it's easy to forget that honest, well-meaning individuals

invested in Icesave and that, like most of the Icelandic citizenry, they did not deserve to get thrown under the bus by a bunch of banksters. As far as looking inwards for the cause of the collapse, you are definitely preaching to the converted.

The truth is, being on Britain's Terrorist List just really hurt our feelings! We were pissed off at those Landsbanki/ Icesave jerks too! Obviously that 'Brown is the Colour of Poo' shirt wasn't blaming him for the collapse; it was our own way of coping with the pain. At this point we realise Brown and Darling did what they did to take care of their citizens and not wait for some kind of agreement (they would have been waiting a looooooong time...)

Thanks for still thinking this is a cool place and continuing to visit! We call that forgiveness. Come say hi next time you're in town to get your prize/birthday present!

Although I've been a vegetarian for nearly 41 years, I appreciated the informative article by Anna Andersen, entitled "Iceland's Post-Crash Sale – 30% OFF!" (dated 9.3.2010) at <http://www.grapevine.is/Home/ReadArticle/Iceland-Post-Crash-Sale>

I wonder if you'd consider writing a similar article that would update the content of that article to 2011 (if not 2012), including the side-by-side price comparisons with percentage change in price? Thanks! Mike Ullmann

Dear Mike,

Well what do you know! It just so happens Anna Andersen went ahead and did EXACTLY THAT VERY THING for this issue! Check it all out on page 6. Thanks for keeping watch!

@Gunnalitra: @rvkgrapevine Dear Grapevine, I love you and I would love you alot more if your webpage was centered and not left-aligned.

@Gunnalitra Thnx 4 the tip. We r thinking about it. We luv u 2!

Hello,

I am working on a vermicomposting project (something with worms eating our foodscraps) and that also includes the use of newspaper as a 'bedding' for our worms.

But as the compost needs to be organic, the ink in the used newspaper also has to be of organic nature.

I was thinking of using the Reykjavik Grapevine for our project (after thoroughly reading it first of course!) and it would really help me if you

could tell us what kind of ink is used in the printing proces?

I would especially like to know if it's a soy-based ink or petroleum-based ink, and if there are any heavy metals used as color pigments. So it might be easiest to just give me the ink's brand names or get me in contact with your printing office?

Takk!

Kind regards,
Goedele Vermeeren
Sólheimar

Dear Goedele,

That sounds like a really cool project, and we wish we could be worm food for you (because they are adorable omfg), but unfortunately our ink is very much petroleum-based and chock full of pigment. We didn't even know there was such a thing as non-organic newsprint before! Silly us. Maybe one day our front cover will say "The Grapevine's Gone Organic!" Keep your fingers crossed. Good luck with the adorable worms!

MOST AWESOME LETTER FREE ICELANDIC GOURMET FEAST!

There's prize for all your MOST AWESOME LETTERS. And it's a scorcher! No, really! It's a goddamn scorcher is what it is! Whoever sends us THE MOST AWESOME LETTER this issue will receive A FRIGGIN GOURMET FEAST FOR TWO at Tapas Barinn. Did you hear that? Write in and complain about something (in an admirable way), win a gourmet feast at one of Reykjavík's finest? THIS IS THE DEAL OF THE CENTURY IS WHAT IT IS! What's in a 'lobster feast'? Well, one has to assume that it has lobster-a-plenty. Is there more? Probably, but still... Gourmet feast? Wow! DON'T PANIC if your letter wasn't picked AWESOME LETTER. There's always next month! Now, if you're in the market for free goodies next month, write us some sort of letter. Give us your worst: letters@grapevine.is



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Iceland | Economics

Is Iceland Still On Sale?

Analysing prices four years post-crash

By Anna Andersen

While Icelanders bemoaned the effects of the financial crisis in 2008, dollar- and euro-carrying tourists rejoiced that the notoriously expensive island had suddenly become more affordable. And if this wasn't obvious in November 2008, Iceland's international airport greeted tourists with a sign that read "Welcome to HALFPRICELAND: Are you here for the nature or the exchange rate?"

Indeed the króna lost half its value against those currencies, but that's only half of the post-crash story. The airport ad overlooked the fact that goods and services on the import-dependent island had become 30% more expensive. So it

wasn't exactly a countrywide 50% off sale, but a sale is a sale and aren't we all suckers for a sale?

The ad was taken down a few months later after a number of Icelanders took issue with its lack of tact rather than its false marketing. Nonetheless, tourists have continued to visit Iceland in record numbers every year post-crash, almost outnumbering the nation's 319,575 inhabitants two-fold this last year.

If these tourists are still coming to enjoy the favourable exchange rate, goods and services are now on average 60% more expensive than they were before the crash. So Iceland is only 25% cheaper than it was when it seemed so prohibitively expensive in 2007. But, happy shopping!

NAVIGATING THE POST-CRASH "SALE"

The following post-crash sale* recommendations are based the price of goods and services listed by Statistics Iceland (www.statice.is) one year pre-crash, in November 2007, and four years post-crash, in November 2012.



OH YEAH, WHAT A STEAL!

Do buy men's socks. They are only 16% more expensive than they were in 2007. That makes them 46% off for tourists.

Do buy a can of Pilsner. It has decreased in price by 2%. That makes it 50% off for tourists. But do note that this is light beer. Real alcohol can only be purchased at state-run liquor stores called Vínbúð.

Do buy light chocolate (but not dark chocolate). It has decreased by a whopping 13%. That's 59% off for tourists.

Do buy forcemeat, if you dare. It has not increased in price, which means it's 53% off.

Do buy diet Orangeade. It has increased in price by 29%, which makes it 40% off. You can find obscure sodas like Orangeade at Drekkinn on Frakkastígur.

Do buy a lottery ticket. It has only increased 10% and you could win LOADS of money.



WATCH OUT, RIP-OFF!

Don't buy fruit unless you are in danger of contracting scurvy. Apples, pears, grapes and raisins have increased in price by more than 130%. They are not sale items. In fact, they were a better deal for tourists in 2007.

Don't buy a pair of jeans. Their price has increased 119%, which makes them 2% more expensive for tourists today compared to 2007.

Don't buy a lady's woollen pullover. It has increased in price by 145%, which is a 14% mark-up for tourists.

Don't buy frozen shrimp. Their price has gone up by 122%. That's a 3% mark-up.

Don't buy a refrigerator. It has increased in price by 115%, which means it's simply not on sale. This is a bad deal. Don't be deceived, tourists.

Don't buy snuff. It is 151% more expensive. That's a 17% mark-up. Not to mention, it's pretty gross.

*The "sale" has been calculated based on the exchange rates listed by Iceland's Central Bank on November 1, 2007 (1 USD to 58,79 ISK) and again on November 1, 2012 (1 USD to 126,11 ISK).

Goods	2007 (ISK)	2012 (ISK)	Percent change	The sale for tourists
Flour, kg	89	140	57.30%	-26.67%
Rice, kg	224	453	102.23%	-5.72%
Whole-wheat bread, kg	296	439	48.31%	-30.86%
Lamb, leg, kg	1253	1461	16.60%	-45.64%
Forcemeat, kg	534	534	0.00%	-53.38%
Haddock fresh, fillets, kg	1079	1557	44.30%	-32.73%
Shrimp, frozen, kg	637	1412	121.66%	3.34%
Salmon, kg	1049	1853	76.64%	-17.65%
Milk, l	76	122	60.53%	-25.17%
Skyr (curds), kg	238	399	67.65%	-21.85%
Dairy cheese, 26% fat, kg	932	1394	49.57%	-30.27%
Eggs, kg	417	649	55.64%	-27.45%
Margarine, kg	260	520	100.00%	-6.76%
Tomatoes, kg	222	346	55.86%	-27.34%
Cucumbers, kg	222	415	86.94%	-12.85%
Apples, kg	120	281	134.17%	9.16%
Oranges, kg	103	245	137.86%	10.89%
Bananas, kg	152	259	70.39%	-20.57%
Grapes, kg	355	910	156.34%	19.50%
Raisins, kg	323	786	143.34%	13.44%
Sugar cubes, kg	259	539	108.11%	-2.98%
Coffee, domestic, kg	906	1859	105.19%	-4.35%
Dark chocolate, 200 g	255	323	26.67%	-40.95%
Light chocolate, 100 g	194	169	-12.89%	-59.39%
Coca Cola, 2 l, bottle	167	294	76.05%	-17.93%
Diet orangeade, 50 cl, bottle	113	146	29.20%	-39.77%
Pilsner, 50 cl (2,25%), can	82	88	7.32%	-49.97%
Vodka, Smirnoff, 750 ml, bottle	3140	4999	59.20%	-25.78%
White wine, 750 ml, bottle	990	1950	96.97%	-8.18%
Red wine, 750 ml, bottle	1190	1999	67.98%	-21.69%
Beer, Viking, 50 cl, can	229	379	65.50%	-22.85%
Cigarettes, pack of 20, pack	601	980	63.06%	-23.98%
Tobacco, 43 g, pack	759	1359	79.05%	-16.53%
Snuff, 50 g, can	405	1020	151.85%	17.41%
Men's shirt, pc.	4757	9472	99.12%	-7.18%
Jeans, pair	8191	17963	119.30%	2.23%
Men's socks, pair	1140	1324	16.14%	-45.86%
Ladies pullover, pc.	2951	7233	145.10%	14.26%
Oil for space heating, 100 l	6738	16350	142.65%	13.12%
Petrol, 95 oct. full service, 100 l	13470	25652	90.44%	-11.22%
Refrigerator	55039	118406	115.13%	0.29%
Airline fare, Reykjavík-Akureyri	10120	15860	56.72%	-26.94%
Bus fare for adults, in Reykjavík	280	350	25.00%	-41.73%
Cinema ticket, ticket	900	1250	38.89%	-35.25%
Lottery ticket, ticket	1000	1100	10.00%	-48.72%
Swimmingpool ticket	220	375	70.45%	-20.54%

Getting The Show Back On The Road

Iceland's economic wellbeing counted in Range Rover registrations

By Anna Andersen

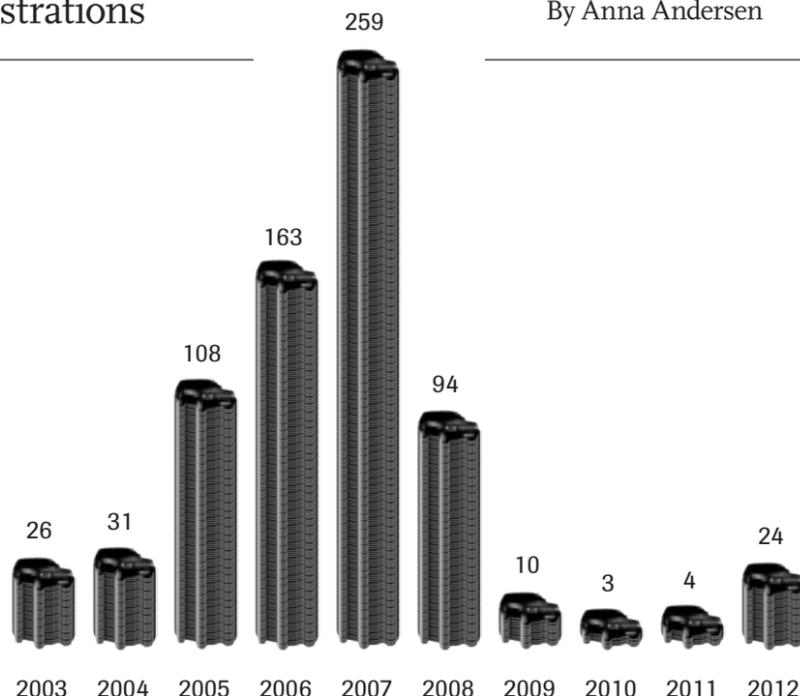
"Iceland's de facto bankruptcy—its currency (the krona) is kaput, its debt is 850 percent of G.D.P., its people are hoarding food and cash and blowing up their new Range Rovers for the insurance—resulted from a stunning collective madness. What led a tiny fishing nation, population 300,000, to decide, around 2003, to re-invent itself as a global financial power? In Reykjavík, where men are men, and the women seem to have completely given up on them, the author follows the peculiarly Icelandic logic behind the meltdown."

So begins "Wall Street on the Tundra," the contentious Vanity Fair article written by Michael Lewis a few months after Iceland's 2008 crash. Contrary to the picture painted by the article, people weren't actually blowing up their Range Rovers en masse, but they probably wished there was something they could do to get rid of their luxury jeep, if it meant that they could get rid of the attached foreign currency pegged loan, which near doubled over night.

In the wake of the crash, the Range Rover stood out as a symbol of the times, a leftover

manifestation of the nation's collective binge. Big cars are useful for taking on some of Iceland's more rugged country roads, but they are difficult to justify in Reykjavík, especially in the city centre with its narrow streets. Nonetheless, in 2007, more Range Rovers were being imported to Iceland than to the rest of Scandinavia, which is a 100 times larger market, according to a Yale Insights interview with former Minister of Business Affairs Gylfi Magnússon in 2009. Range Rovers were a status symbol; people compared their luxury jeeps like traders in American Psycho compared their business cards.

As you can see in the accompanying graph, there was a dramatic drop in new Range Rover registrations from 259 in 2007 to 94 in 2008. The number continued to drop with 10, three and four registrations in the three following years. The trend reversed last year, however, with registrations jumping to 24, which is more than five times the number of registrations in 2011. This leads us to conclude, if our newly invented RRR Index is any kind of sign of the times, that Iceland may be getting the show back on the road.





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Iceland | FAQ

So What's This Asylum Tourism I Keep Hearing About?

Words

Kári Tulinius

Illustration

Lóa Hjálmtýsdóttir

After spending a gazillion dollars convincing foreigners that Iceland in winter is not an uninhabitable rock floating in the colder bits of the North Atlantic, the tourism industry has found itself overwhelmed by an influx of winter visitors. Having been lured here by the promise that Iceland wants to be your friend, they have instead found that Icelandic nature has all the personal skill of an enraged reindeer bull and the charming demeanour of a sand blaster to the face.

SO ASYLUM TOURISM REFERS TO TOURISTS SEEKING ASYLUM FROM THE WINTRY WEATHER?

No, not really, but the reality is only slightly less ludicrous. The term "asylum tourism" was imported into Icelandic public discourse by Kristín Völundardóttir, the head of the Icelandic Directorate of Immigration.

OH GOOD, AN EXPERT! WHAT DOES THIS TERM SHE USED MEAN?

Here is the odd thing. In a recent Icelandic language press release she used the term "asylum tourism" in English. In English, that means visiting disused psychiatric institutions and has nothing to do with asylum seekers. As far as this column has been able to discover, the term "asylum tourism" as Kristín used it could have three origins. The first comes from Slovakia and began life as yet another slur on the Roma. The second meaning, referring to asylum-seekers being housed in tourist accommodation, was born in Austria.

DO YOU KNOW WHO ELSE WAS BORN IN AUSTRIA?

Kommissar Rex, the crime-fighting German Shepard. And really, enough with the Hitler jokes about Austria, it has been

absolutely ages since they have given us a genocidal dictator. The third meaning of "asylum tourism" refers to the practice of shuttling asylum seekers between different countries in Europe. However, none of these meanings have anything to do with what Kristín Völundardóttir was talking about in a radio interview that got her into hot water.

DURING THE ICELANDIC WINTER, HOT WATER IS WHAT YOU WANT TO GET INTO.

That is true, but this is the metaphorical hot water where you end up getting immediately pencilled in for a meeting with your boss, in this case Minister of the Interior Ögmundur Jónasson. You see, there was an outcry in the media

when Kristín implied that some of the asylum seekers her institution is supposed to serve were nothing more than tourists that applied for asylum to receive free room and board in Iceland.

THAT'S A RATHER ODD THING FOR A CIVIL SERVANT IN A POSITION OF AUTHORITY OVER ASYLUM SEEKERS TO IMPLY.

Well, she did not imply it so much as say it outright. She told Icelandic state broadcaster RÚV that "It can be a bit appealing for people who are not exactly asylum seekers, who intend to work illegally or come here for other reasons, to come to Iceland. It could be a very attractive bonus to get free food and shelter when the application process is so long."

OH GOODNESS.

She went on: "People are just going abroad to get to know the country and nation and make use of the services that asylum seekers are offered."

When the interview caused outrage Kristín put out the previously mentioned press release claiming that her words had been taken out of context.

In response, RÚV released the entire interview revealing that, in fact, she had not been taken out of context.

MAYBE SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WORDS MEAN; APHASIA IS A RECOGNISED DISORDER.

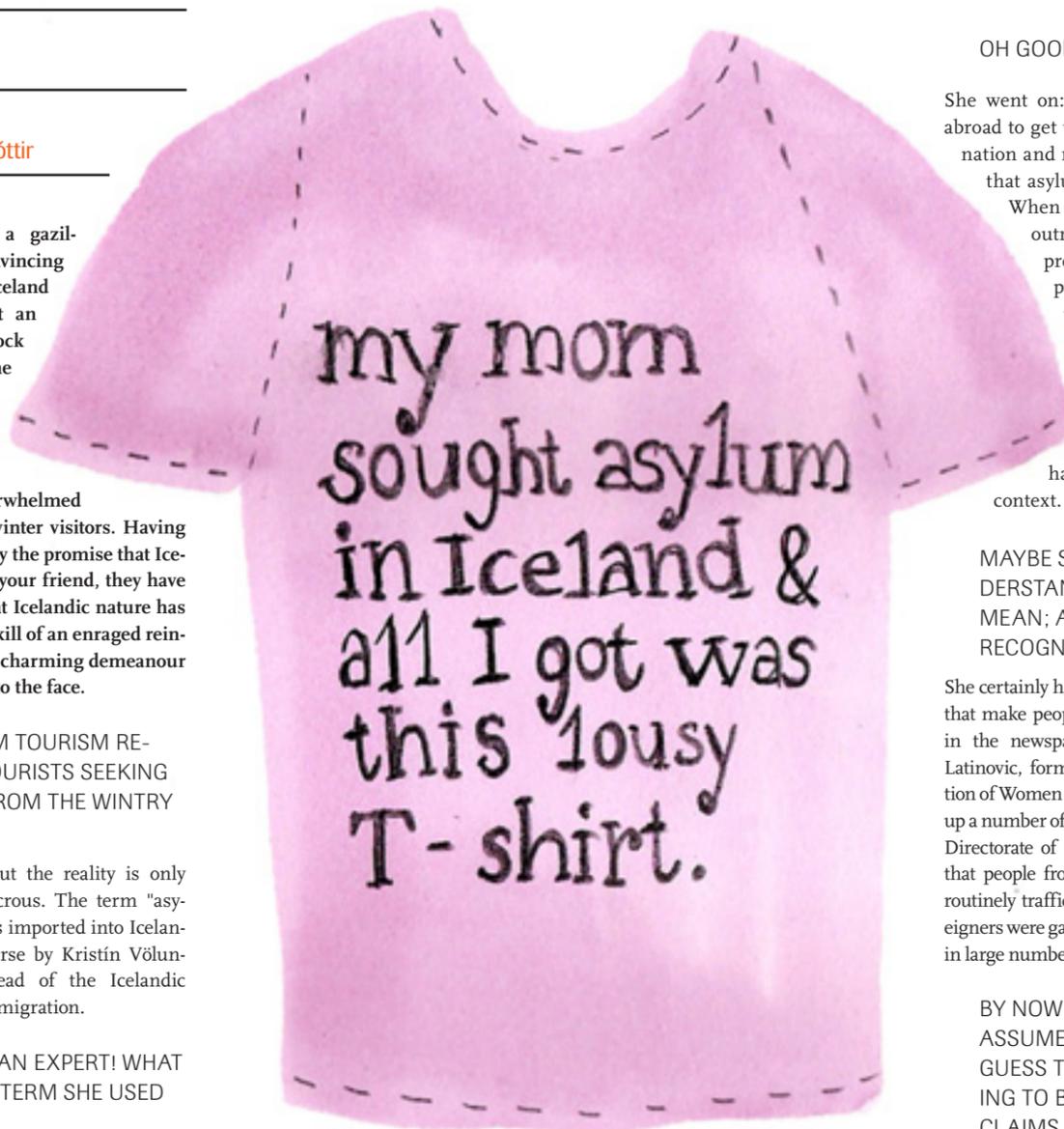
She certainly has a history of using words that make people confused. In an article in the newspaper Fréttablaðið, Tatjana Latinovic, former head of the Organization of Women of Foreign Origin, brought up a number of remarks by the head of the Directorate of Immigration, for instance that people from one particular country routinely trafficked children and that foreigners were gaining Icelandic citizenship in large numbers using forged papers.

BY NOW I'M JUST GONNA ASSUME THE WORST AND GUESS THAT THERE'S NOTHING TO BACK UP THOSE CLAIMS.

Tatjana says the civil servant offered no data and made the excuse that the institute she runs has neither the money nor time to do scholarship or research. Which, you know, if they prioritise taking care of the people in their care, is excellent news.

THEY DO? SO THERE IS AN UPSIDE TO... OH... YOU'RE BEING SARCASTIC.

RÚV's cultural program Víðsjá dedicated part of recent show to this issue. Asked by a reporter if he considered his stay in an Icelandic detention centre for asylum seekers a form of tourism, Afghan refugee Naveen Noori said that it was like being in a sort of prison. The rest of the segment bore him out.



NEWS IN BRIEF

January started off on a sensational note with international media reporting that Iceland was the thing to fear in 2013. Two different shows on America's Public Broadcasting Service depicted Iceland as a ticking time bomb ready to explode this year. While Iceland is volcanically active, geologists were quick to point out that predicting eruptions to the year is pretty close to impossible.

An Icelander became the unwitting subject of the international news after he drank a bottle of Tópas liqueur, boarded an Icelandic flight bound for New York and proceeded to yell at and spit on other passengers before they and the crew managed to tape him to a seat and gag him. A fellow passenger photographed the "the air hooligan" and the image went from Facebook to Reddit, at which point his fate was sealed. The airline says the man will face charges.

President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson had a few things to say this month. In an interview with the BBC, he said Iceland's economy is recovering because of the national character. Never mind that this was the same reason he cited in 2005 to explain why our eventually doomed venture capitalists were succeeding. He also proclaimed that Icelanders will "never forget Gordon Brown," that his name will live in infamy in Iceland for "centuries." I guess we'll have to wait and see if he's right about that one.

Whether it was something about her national character or not, Vilborg Arna Gissurardóttir became the first solo Icelander to reach the South Pole. She travelled by skis and slept in a tent the entire 60-day journey, which is perhaps something to keep in mind when it's cold and you're waiting for the bus. Her supporters donated a total 6.5 million ISK to the charity LÍF, which raises money for wards catering to females at Iceland's national hospital Landspítalinn. Kudos to Vilborg!

A drunken man who was arrested for trying to skip out on paying for a desert spent the night in a jail cell where he at some point attempted to eat a mattress. The man insisted that he was hungry and had been denied food by the police. The police said they visited the man a total of 17 times, giving

– Continues over –

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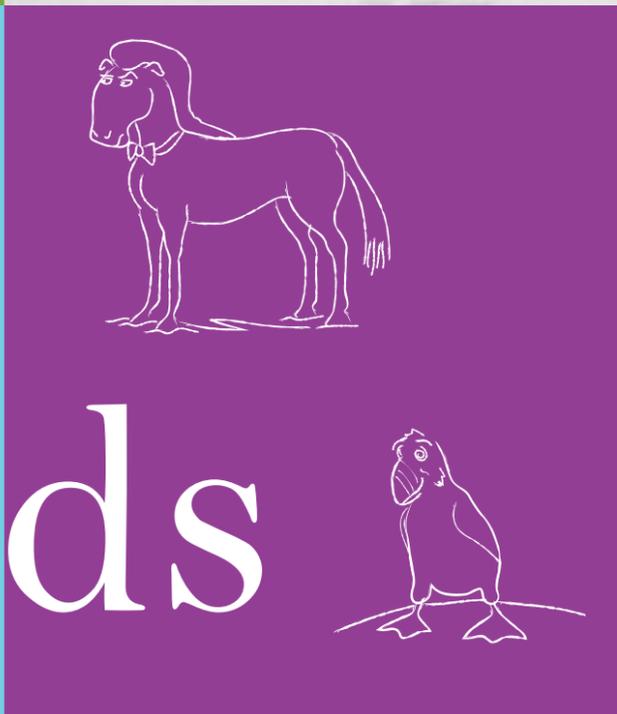
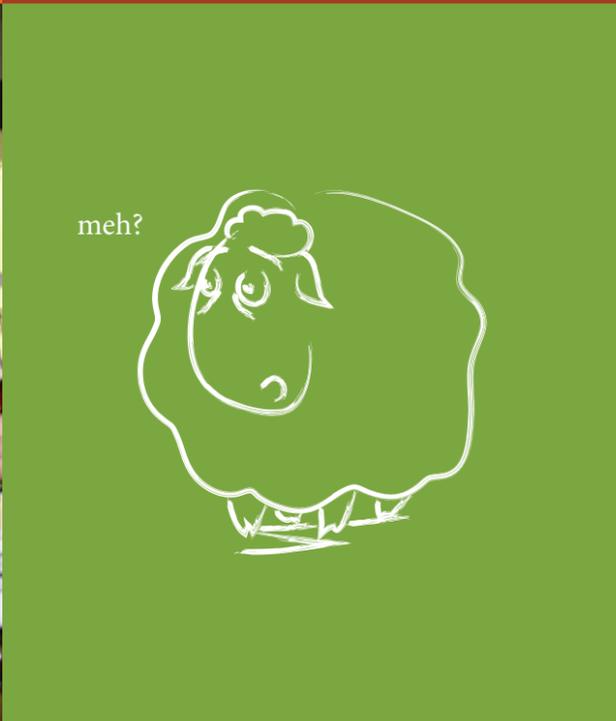
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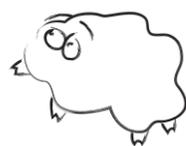
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Iceland | Dating

Speed-Dating At Café Lingua

Putting a face to the many languages and cultures of Reykjavík



Alisa Kalyanova

Kristín R. Vilhjálmsdóttir, director of multicultural projects at the library.

Born and raised in Istanbul, Turkey, Saadet Ozdemir Hilmarsson moved to Iceland in 2008 when she married an Icelander. Before moving, she had studied tourism and hotel management in Istanbul, and was also certified as a kindergarten teacher. Despite her professional skills, finding permanent employment has been hard, she says, due to the language barrier.

Saadet is currently studying Icelandic, and speaks enough English to get by in daily life. But she is also eager to find a community in her new home, to take part in cultural events and organisations like she regularly did in Istanbul. “Since I arrived, I’ve been digging around,” she says. “I wonder, what more can I do to adapt to the life and culture?”

Lenka Kovářová, a Czech woman who completed a Master’s degree in Nordic Religion at the University of Iceland and has lived in Reykjavík for nearly seven years, has asked herself similar questions. Lenka speaks fluent Icelandic but is also finding the Reykjavík job market to be tough. “I am at a crossroads,” she said. “I am looking for ways to make connections and meet new people.”

Enter the new Café Lingua programme at the Reykjavík City Library. This weekly programme is part of the library’s extensive multicultural initiatives and aims to bring Reykjavík residents together in the spirit of linguistic exchange and exploration. “Our languages, whether they are mother tongues or foreign languages, give us both roots and wings,” says Kristín R. Vilhjálmsdóttir, the director of multicultural projects at the library, who organised the programme.

BREAKING BARRIERS

At its inaugural event in November 2012, native speakers of 14 different languages—from Icelandic and Lithuanian to Arabic and Filipino—were invited to represent their mother tongue in a round of “language speed-dating,” where the nearly 80 guests were given the chance to “meet” each language in a series of five-minute introductions.

Saadet, who volunteered to represent Turkish, thought it would be a good opportunity to meet other people who share her interest in learning about other cultures, give some posi-

tive context for her country—which she says is often only known through negative news—and dispel some confusion around the Turkish language. “Turkish is often mixed up with other Middle Eastern languages.”



“...In Turkish, there is a proverb that says, “The person who speaks one language, is one person; the person who speaks two languages, is two.”



Tung Phuong Vu had parallel motivations for participating. “There wasn’t a Vietnamese representative, so I thought it was a great opportunity to represent our language. I realised af-

ter talking with people in Café Lingua that many foreign friends thought that Vietnamese uses the same characters as other countries in the region. But afterwards, they seemed to have more comprehensive understanding about our language.”

Lenka was one of two Czech representatives and was pleased that people were interested in the Czech language, which has a very complex grammar and pronunciation. She was also happy to have the opportunity to distinguish Czech culture from that of other Slavic countries. “There aren’t many Czech people in Iceland,” she said. “It is nice to have the opportunity to show people the things that are unique in our culture and language.” The Café Lingua meetings, she said, have been good opportunities to “build bridges” over any preconceptions that people have about a particular country or region, and find to common ground as well as understand difference.

BUILDING BRIDGES

Café Lingua has also been a place for people to put their current language skills into practice. Joanna Marcinkowska, Café Lingua’s Polish representative who is an advisor for foreigners at Reykjavík’s Human Rights Office, believes that an informal social environment is key for new speakers of a language. “It always works better when you are not in the classroom. Especially for people who already have some knowledge of the language but are not able to practice it ‘live.’”

Since the first Café Lingua, there have been further language speed dating rounds, as well as a multilingual poetry reading and a Christmas-themed event where attendees shared holiday songs and customs while enjoying gingerbread and jólaglögg. In February, the library will host a conversation with Icelandic musician Tómas R. Einarsson, who will speak about his experiences learning Spanish, as well as the Cuban influences in his music, much of which has been recorded in Havana, Cuba.

For Saadet, seeing other people’s interest in other cultures and languages at Café Lingua has been clarifying. “It was like turning a light on...In Turkish, there is a proverb that says, “The person who speaks one language, is one person; the person who speaks two languages, is two.” ❖ - LARISSA KYZER

NEWS IN BRIEF

– Continued –

him water, letting him use the toilet, and bringing a doctor to check on him. Reykjanes District Court ordered the man to pay 20,000 ISK in damages.



After about 13 years, the City of Reykjavík approved an application from the Muslim Society of Iceland to buy land for the purposes of building a mosque. Vice Chairperson of the Muslim Society of Iceland Salmann Tamimi, who filed the original application said he was overjoyed to hear the news, and hopes to start building this summer. The mosque will be built in Sagamýri, which is a bit out of the way, but a plot of land nonetheless.

Minister of the Interior Ögmundur Jónasson got himself in hot water when the Icelandic media reported that he was trying to ban porn. Bloggers raged, the Pirate Party accused him of censorship, and thousands of college-aged males began Googling “proxy server.” In reality, porn is already banned in Iceland. What the Minister is trying to do is get an actual definition of “porn” on the law books, and trying to update the existing porn ban law to account for the Internet.

EU talks had been closing in on home base, with the dreaded chapters on fishing and agriculture looming on the horizon, when it was announced that the accession talks would be put on hold. Not stopped, not set aside, but “slowed down” due to elections this April. Nonetheless, this prompted EU opponents to loudly proclaim that we must have a referendum on whether or not to continue talks again. But even the president seemed confused.

Finally, EFTA ruled in Iceland’s favour in the Icesave dispute over whether or not Iceland had broke international law when it allowed Icelanders to withdraw their money from Landsbanki after the 2008 crash, but not foreigners who had money in Landsbanki’s Icesave branch. The verdict prevents the UK and Netherlands from suing Iceland for potentially billions of euros. Iceland is ecstatic.

❖ - PAUL FONTAINE



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Icesave | We won!

The Game Of Risk

The Icesave song has ended, but the melody lingers



Jón Trausti Sigurðarson is a 31 year old student at the University of Iceland.

“Congratulations!” This word was frequently shouted this past Monday. Why? Did Iceland’s national handball team win the European Championship? Or did an Icelandic ‘musician’ win the Eurovision Song Contest? No. On this day, at 10:30 AM, the EFTA Court had ruled Iceland victorious in the so-called “Icesave case.” Iceland had won the European Championship of Lawyering.

Icelanders were happy, and understandably so. Picking up the bill, not to mention a rather large one, is seldom an enjoyable affair. The island’s most prominent female vocalist posted on her Facebook wall that “sometimes justice is fulfilled,” a notion that mostly all Icelanders could agree with. The leaders of the government called it “a great victory for us” and said that “everyone should be merry and not seek out culprits.”

One of the opposition leaders in parliament, a great proponent of referendums, called the court’s decision “a victory of the nation over the tyranny of the government.” Another opposition leader noted that Iceland had prevailed over the oppressive policies of foreign government, adding that Iceland’s government should “apologise to the Icelandic nation and that “we” should learn from the whole affair to “always stick together when it comes to defending Icelandic interests.”

So, the message from the folks in parliament was simple. Government leaders said “phew” and “don’t blame us,” while opposition leaders said the verdict was a victory for the people over Iceland’s government and over foreign superpowers and institutions.

Yes. “Congratulations on the victory, Iceland!”

Seven long years after the Icelandic bank Landsbankinn opened its Icesave branches in the UK, the Icesave issue was finally resolved. No more Icesave-Christmases. No more Icesave-press conferences at the President’s office. No more Icesave deals. No more referendums. Everyone was happy. Still, the issue hadn’t quite faded away.

GAMBLING WITH THE NATION’S FUTURE

But how did an Icelandic bank opening a branch in the UK eventually lead to Iceland being summoned to EFTA Court? Well, that was, more or less, the result of the Icelandic nation’s decision, a decision made in a referendum on

April 9, when “we” said no to the so-called “Icesave III” deal, thus pushing the UK and the Netherlands to take Iceland to court. So, Icelanders decided to take a risk by pursuing the unknown, rather than taking the known, road out of a given situation.

This is something Icelanders have been keen on doing. A few years before—in 2005, to be exact, a year before Landsbankinn opened its first Icesave branch in the UK—a telling speech was made at the Walbrook club in London. The speaker was Iceland’s then and cur-

“
The risk paid off, but
that doesn’t mean
that those who played
it safe were against
Icelandic interests.”

rent President, Mr. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, and his speech touched on the special nature of Icelanders and why they were so successful in modern business. To quote:

“Icelanders are risk takers. They are daring and aggressive. Perhaps this is because they know that if they fail, they can always go back to Iceland where everyone can enjoy a good life in an open and secure society; the national fabric of our country provides a safety-net which enables our business leaders to take more risks than others tend to do.”

The president was, and to some extent still is, right about this. Icelanders are risk takers. To bring the Icesave issue to court was, like the decision to engage in the Cod Wars back in the day, a risky endeavour. Amazingly, both risks paid off. But is taking a risk always the right thing to do? Where did this Icesave issue come from anyway? Well, in short, it came from taking a risk.

When the Icelandic economic wonder faced “a bit of a lull” during the so-called “mini-crisis” of 2006, Landsbankinn decided to open the Icesave branch in the UK to resolve what they then perceived as a short-term cash flow problem. As Icesave was a branch, not a subsidiary, the money could easily flow back to Iceland, where it was promptly used to resolve the bank’s and the bank owner’s cash problems, as well as those of the bank’s most prized customers. This worked out beautifully short term, but ultimately turned out to be a disaster; Landsbanki col-

lapsed in the fall of 2008, leaving depositors in the UK and Netherlands unable to access their funds.

Risk-taking is a strange beast. It can either pay off or bite you in the ass. Games are often all about taking risks. Just ask any member of Iceland’s national handball team. In life, taking risks is sometimes necessary. However, when the welfare of others is at stake, many would at least consider other safer options, or so one would hope.

Let’s imagine a hypothetical scenario. Say a man is driving his car to the airport at 170 kilometres per hour. With him are his wife and their two children. They are about to miss their flight to Tenerife, or some other sunny resort. A few things can happen: 1) The family makes it on time for the flight and gets to kick back on a sunny beach. 2) The car is pulled over by the police, and the driver is fined and loses his license, and they miss their flight. 3) The driver loses control of the car and veers off the road. Whether he and his family ultimately survive the ordeal is unknown.

Now let’s say that the first scenario plays out. Would it be appropriate for her husband, now safely aboard the airplane with his family, to demand that his wife apologise for having suggested that they simply rebook the flight rather than take the risk of speeding to the airport? I think I can safely assume most of us would not find that demand fitting.

OSTRACIZING THOSE WHO DIDN’T

Taking the Icesave issue to court, rather than settling it out of court, was a huge risk for Iceland—a risk that paid off. The instigators of such risk-taking, namely the president of Iceland, the Progressive party MPs, the Citizens Movement MPs, the InDefence and Advice lobby groups and, last but not least, 60% of the Icelandic voters, were, last Monday, along with the rest of the country, saved from the chopping block by the EFTA Court.
So
we

all woke up kicking back on a sunny beach.

The risk paid off, but that doesn’t mean that those who played it safe were against Icelandic interests. It was impossible beforehand, for the most capable of legal experts, to foresee that Iceland would win the case. And whatever people thought of the “Icesave III” deal, that deal, with all its faults, was still a rather foreseeable and safe affair.

Wisdom in hindsight is of little worth if anything that the former Prime Minister Geir H. Haarde should be all too familiar with. Few people have had to sit through as many I-told-you-sos as he did during his trial last summer—more or less everybody who took the witness stand claimed they had foreseen the Icelandic economic collapse of 2008. And why was our former prime minister in court? Well, he had taken a risk. He had hoped that by doing as little as possible, instead of perhaps endangering his political career by making brisk and tough decisions, that the crisis of 2008 would simply pass Iceland by. It didn’t, and in the process Iceland’s economy and his political career came to a crashing end. Had his risk-taking worked out, however, he might still be prime minister, or perhaps the whole thing would have gone up in flames anyway. Who knows?

Several MPs from the opposition are now demanding that the current government apologise to the nation, or even resign, all the while patting themselves on the back for having insisted that the Icesave case go to court. With elections looming, one must ask if these same people are fit for government. If they were in power in a similar situation, will they think about what’s best for the country, or will they always opt for the risk, and hope against hope that destiny is on their side, like our aforementioned former prime minister did? And shouldn’t those who created the problem, and did nothing to resolve it, simply enjoy the victory like the rest of us, rather than boisterously singing their own undeserved praises while declaring those who would have done the sensible thing opponents of Icelandic interests?

That said, last Monday saw an unlikely victory for Iceland, and one we should assuredly enjoy. “Congratulations, Iceland—today is your day!”



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Iceland | Homelessness

On The Outside

Where are the homeless of Reykjavík?



Patrice Helmar

Kaffistofan, downtown Reykjavík's soup kitchen, has the off-white walls, bland decor and fluorescent lighting of a hospital cafeteria. Located on Borgatún behind a worn and graffitied wooden fence facing Harpa and the oceanfront, Kaffistofan serves hot meals and snacks between 10:00 and 17:00. Everyone is welcome, and the cafeteria is visited by anyone looking for a free meal, a place to sit and read the paper or a place to meet with friends.

Guðbjörn visits daily, after having his breakfast at home. When I meet him, he's wearing a blue and pink wool sweater under a worn leather jacket and a teal fedora. On his finger is a silver ring, a gift from a friend. Like him, the face on the ring is long with broad features, more Native American than Icelandic. Three years ago, before his daughter returned to Iceland from Sweden, Guðbjörn had been homeless for four years, sleeping in shelters on good nights, and in abandoned buildings and outside under trees on bad nights, when the shelters were full. Decades of drug use and addiction preceded his years on the streets. What started off as casual pot use escalated to ecstasy, speed and LSD by the time he was 17. His addiction spanned decades, ruined his engagement to the mother of his child and turned long trips at sea into painful sessions of withdrawal symptoms.

After going through rehab at SÁÁ, Iceland's Centre for Addiction Medicine, he has been sober for 12 years. When his daughter, who lived in Sweden, returned to Iceland four years ago she agreed to let him move in with her. Now he spends his days reading the paper at Kaffistofan and going to the gym three times a week.

DEFINING THE HOMELESS OF REYKJAVÍK

Reykjavík's homeless problem doesn't manifest itself in the usual ways. Drove of people aren't reduced to panhandling on street corners or sleeping overnight in bus stops. It wouldn't be hard to spend a week or two downtown taking in the city's whimsical, idyllic atmosphere and be convinced that homelessness just doesn't exist in Iceland.

In October 2012, Reykjavík City Council's welfare department released a study on the nature of homeless-

ness in the capital region. The report, written by Erla Björg Sigurðardóttir, surveyed the Reykjavík Red Cross, the city's welfare services, prison services, the police, and Samhjálp, a local service organisation owned by Filadelfia church and asked the groups to help identify the individuals they served between March and May of that year. The study found that 179 men and women between the ages of 18 and 79

“
Nobody in Iceland
has to starve. No-
body in Iceland has
to sleep outside
”

were in some state of homelessness. Of the 179, 160 were Icelandic citizens, 12 were from Poland, two from Latvia, one from Britain, one from Denmark and one from Lithuania.

The study identified six types of homelessness. There are the 'utan-garðsfólk,' which roughly translates to "the outsiders," people who live outdoors and outside of society; those who live in temporary shelters such as Samhjálp's Gistiskýli for men or the Red Cross' Konukot for women; women who've escaped abusive home environments for crisis centres; men and women who've left prison, rehabilitation centres or halfway houses and have nowhere to live; formerly homeless people living under supervised care; and people living in "precarious" situations. "Precarious" implies anything from temporary situations such as staying with family and friends,

to living in borderline uninhabitable buildings.

This broader definition of homelessness may explain why the problem isn't as evident as it is in other cities. While 179 individuals are facing some form of housing difficulty, only 22 individuals, 14 men and eight women, were reportedly sleeping on the streets.

THE BEST PLACE TO BE HOMELESS?

"I think it's a very hidden problem. People just don't realise that there are so many who need this kind of help. Or maybe they don't care," says Þórunn Ýr Elíasdóttir, who works as Samhjálp's bookkeeper and financial advisor. She also runs Sporið, a 17-room halfway house located in the area surrounding the capital.

For many of the homeless in Reykjavík, the city offers a number of services. "It's not so very bad, in Iceland, to be an outsider," Þórunn says. A man can spend an entire day migrating from resource to resource.

Each night starts at Gistiskýlið, the men's shelter on Þingholtstraeti. The building is fairly nondescript from the outside—there isn't a large "Men's Shelter" sign. People just know to go there and ring the buzzer on the front step starting at 17:00. There's a camera trained on the front door, projecting black and white security footage for the men who run the shelter each night. Inside the viewing room is a cot for staff members to sleep on and cubbies to store the personal belongings and/or alcohol belonging to the night's residents.

The shelter is three stories tall and has twenty beds. The walls are decorated with paintings of horses and cathedrals which, along with the lighting, the hospital beds and the linoleum flooring, add to the hospital vibe of the building.

The men have breakfast between 8:30 and 10:00, then head next door to have breakfast with the nuns of Kvennakirkjan. Kaffistofan is open from 10:00 to 17:00, but the afternoon is also a good time to take a shuttle to Dagsetrið, a service Þórunn refers to as a sort of day care for adults run by the Salvation Army. Guests can play pool, socialise, get haircuts, foot massages and have their clothes washed. Men who are sober and mentally able are selected to paint benches around the city for 500 ISK. Kaffistofan serves a hot meal around 15:00, and Gistiskýlið opens again at 17:00 with coffee and snacks, beginning the cycle over again.

In the city's report, most of those served by the city's welfare services reported that they were happy with the services provided to them, though they wished for more round-the-clock services.

"I think we have enough resources for this group," Þórunn says. "We just have to make better use of what we have." Yet, when Þórunn says it's not so bad to be homeless in Iceland, she means the available resources are offering basic comforts, but they aren't as geared towards helping the homeless get back on their feet.

"Nobody in Iceland has to starve. Nobody in Iceland has to sleep outside," she says, "but when everyone is struggling, those who work look at the ones who don't, and see people who spend their day being drunk, don't have to pay rent, don't have to pay for food, or anything except for their alcohol or drugs. We have to do something to help those people become more responsible and take responsibility for their lives," she says.

✦ - ARIT JOHN

Konukot, Reykjavík's Women's Shelter

Since December 10, 2004, the Reykjavík branch of the Icelandic Red Cross has been running Konukot for the homeless women of the city.

Like Gistiskýlið, which has been run by Samhjálp since fall of 1990, Konukot is run in partnership with the Reykjavík City Council's social welfare department. After a two-year trial period, the Red Cross was given additional funds from the City to continue running the shelter.

Konukot is open between 17:00 in the evening and noon the following day. Women are asked to enter the house before 1:00 in the morning. Snacks are offered in the evening and breakfast is served in the morning. Konukot also offers bathing facilities and clean clothes.

Many of the women who stay at Konukot deal with drug and alcohol addiction, and the shelter offers weekly visits from city social workers and counselling on the connection between syringe use and diseases such as HIV.

Resources

If you find yourself in need of help, the following resources may be helpful.	Samhjálp Stangarhyl 3a, 110 Reykjavík 561-1000
Gistiskýlið Open: 17 - 10.00 Þinghóltsstræti 25, 101 Reykjavík 561-0477	Kaffistofan Open: 10 - 16.00 weekdays & 11 - 16.00 weekends Borgartún 1, 105 Reykjavík 561-1007
Salvation Army Kirkjustræti 2, 121 Reykjavík 552-0788	Konukot Open: 17 - 12.00 Eskihlíð 4, 105 Reykjavík 511-5150
The Icelandic Red Cross Efstaleiti 9, 103 Reykjavík 570-4000	



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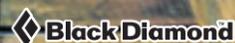
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Spór ehf.

On The Frontier

Leading Iceland's elusive Jewish community

By Nic Cavell



Alisa Kalyanova

Even by generous estimates, there are less than 100 Jews in Iceland. The community's infrastructure is sparse, their celebrations un-elaborate. Their leader, although he disputes the title, is Mike Levin, a Chicago-born Jew transplanted here after meeting his Icelandic wife through a music instructor in Vienna. Mike embodies the community's nearly pathological—he says practical—eschewal of publicity, and only after much coaxing did he agree to sit for an interview at Kaffitár in Reykjavík. As he later told me, "Sometimes you talk to reporters, there's an article about you in the paper, and suddenly your barber is looking at you differently." Despite that, he has a dream.

A GOOD SCOUT

Due to good fortune, Mike had what he considers a solid Jewish upbringing in Chicago. As a child, he attended Jewish summer camp, Hebrew school and Sunday school religiously. His synagogue had a Rabbi, a Board of Directors and a Hebrew Sisterhood. The other synagogue members noticed that, when Mike started attending services, everybody sang in the same key. As he puts it, a "bunch of old men moaning turned into a choir."

One of the most striking memories from his childhood occurred after Mike joined the Boy Scouts of America at age nine. He remembers his father driving him all day from Chicago to Wisconsin for a Scout dinner, only to leave without ceremony when he discovered that ham was, indisputably, the only option. In Mike's last experience of the Boy Scouts, his father "stuck to his guns"—a fact Mike remembers with pride.

Even outside of the Boy Scouts, Mike couldn't refrain from living out his identity as a frontiersman. At age 11, he accepted a challenge and started paid work as a Jewish cantor. Music paved his way to the University of Illinois, and afterward his travels took him to Vienna, where an Icelandic music teacher introduced Mike to his future wife.

In Chicago, he had learned how to conduct services by participating in them; in Vienna, the same services seemed cloistered from him and remote. Attending service made him uneasy, so he simply stopped going. His interest continued to drift from his Jewish roots until he set foot on a particular Atlantic rock in 1986. Then, as now, Iceland had no synagogue, no Jewish community centre, and no publicly organized structure. It was a harsh contrast to note that Judaism was not even

one of Iceland's state-recognized religions.

As he began to reach out to Iceland's scattered population of Jews, he came to understand that with regard to Judaism this country truly was, in his words, "the frontier." There were no rabbis and Hebrew Sisterhoods, nor Hebrew schools for kids. If Iceland's coarsely combined assortment of Jews wanted to get something done, they would have to do it themselves.

Confronting the void and an oceanic feeling, Mike decided to immerse himself in what resources were available—slender phone trees that mapped the Jews in Iceland; Iceland's religious leaders, including the Lutheran Church's bishop; and academics at the University of Iceland. Soon, it was Mike who was leading meetings at coffee shops and community gatherings for Jewish holidays.

But the strongest impetus for Mike's involvement came from his kids, who are now ages 17 and 19. "I wanted my kids to know their heritage. I didn't want them to grow up unaware, like so many people do, or just to hear about it from their friends," he says.

As Mike sees it, even if many Icelanders are unreligious, Icelandic society remains permeated with religion. When neighbourhoods are designed, a Lutheran church is put into the area's plan from the very beginning and without debate. In schools, religion classes focus on Christianity, with scant mention of Judaism, and Christian holidays dominate the calendar year.

Mike wasn't interested in opting his children out of those classes and holidays, but he wanted Judaism to be more than a small satellite orbiting the Lutheran church, more than a single page of his children's cultural memory. What he really wanted was something to weigh against other influences—to "counter-balance" Icelandic culture, as he says—and to show his children their heritage.

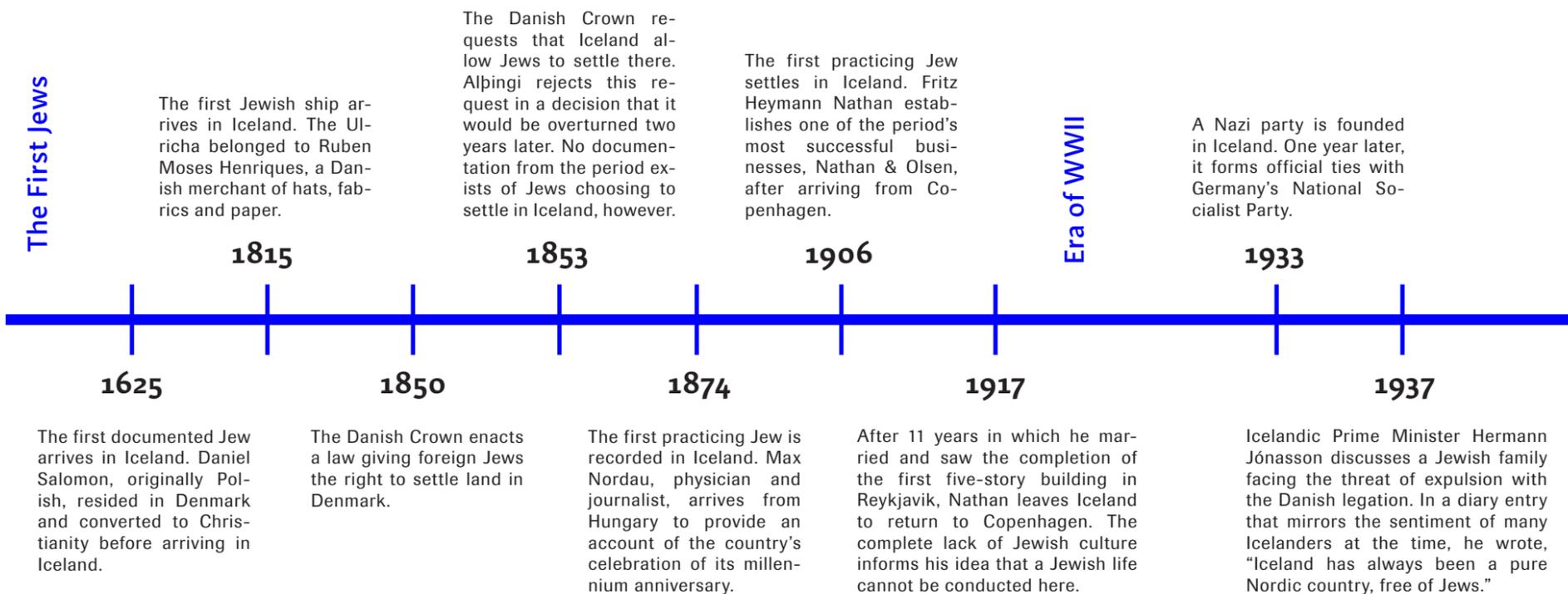
Which leads to Mike's dream: a synagogue in Reykjavík.

"The experiences you remember as a kid, they have a lot to say," Mike says. "That's one of the most important reasons for me to participate—so that my kids can experience first-hand my own religion."

MICHAEL AND GOLIATH

It's an ambitious dream, to say the least, for a community with less than 100 members. And it's a dream that immediately begs several questions, the first of which is, where would you put it?

Timeline



“The funny thing is, there’s a building here built by a Jew, and it would be the perfect place,” Mike says, referring to the Jacobsen building on Austurstræti, built in the early 20th century by the Jewish trading agent Fritz Heymann Nathan. “What I would love to do is get the second floor of that building, somewhere above the Laundromat Café,” a space currently occupied by a restaurant.

But if procured, a synagogue in a space like this—right in the heart of 101—brings other questions to mind. Namely, how does the Jewish community expect Iceland’s public to react to such a development?



One has only to think of the Islamic community’s struggle to build a mosque to gauge the recalcitrance with which foreign religious institutions are granted shape in Iceland. In 2000, the Muslim Association applied to build a mosque in Reykjavík. Only after more than a decade of waiting in silent bafflement has the Association received from the city the land it requested.

“There’s conflict between the two groups [Sunni and Shiite Muslims], which is supposed to be the reason there’s no mosque there. There are over 600 Muslims here, why no mosque? It seems very strange to me,” Mike says. The Muslims in the Muslim Association continue to worship, in a chapel on the third floor of an office building at Ármúli 38, which is safely outside of the city’s cultural core.

“The chapel today is not making a statement—nothing like the huge building they wanted placed downtown,” Mike says. Observing the Muslim Associations efforts, Mike says, he feels compelled to think, “What if this was me and I was looking for a place to make a synagogue?”

Mike concedes that the obstacles the Muslim Association faces are probably similar to what the Jewish community would face, but he notes that the Jewish community’s modest bank account would be completely unable to finance projects on the scale of the Muslim Association’s.

But what if, against all odds, the money was raised—perhaps by foreign Jewish organisations or untapped donors with generous pocketbooks? Beside finances, what opposition to a synagogue has the Jewish community run into, in concrete terms?

“The sad truth is we’ve never really applied for state recognition. There probably

aren’t enough community members willing to go in and self-identify,” Mike says, referring to the 50 members of a religious organisation whose signatures are required on the application for state recognition and the attendant financial aid.

Mike believes that the Jewish community could win the designation with a delegation numbering far less, but even rallying a smaller group could be difficult.

“What I’ve been waiting for is a core of 15–20 people, or a grassroots group. I don’t want to do this by myself,” Mike says. And at this moment, the layers of self-abnegation drop from his guard. The contradictions he’s sprinkled in; the denials that he’s a community leader in any way, or has been since arriving to Iceland in 1986; the portrait he desperately wants to portray of himself as non-essential to the organisation of the Jewish community, even while constructing their Torah ark and running their services all these years—all of it evaporates in this moment, into the wind lashing the glass windows outside Kaffitár.

“I don’t want to do this by myself,” he says again—a man who has expended so much on the community’s behalf in the quarter century he’s been here.

But is that what it feels like? That the synagogue—a glass ceiling for the small community—can’t be breached because the nucleus of the community doesn’t extend beyond a single person?

“That’s how it’s felt for me. Well, for me and one other woman,” Mike says.

THE TATTERED DREAM COAT

Sigal Har-Meshi, the community’s treasurer, tentatively agreed to meet with me at Café Babalú only because Mike, in the previous interview, had an opportunity to vet me against the legion of reporters he’s met with representing Iceland’s other publications—a legion for whom Mike is the token Jewish voice in articles, and to whom Mike, after frustrations with the simplifications of journalism, has decided to stop talking. Somehow in our meeting I pronounced the shibboleth, and he agreed to open Sigal’s node of the community phone tree to me.

Sigal was born in Israel and lived there until deciding, in the midst of extensive travel, to work a stint in an Icelandic fish factory with her sister. They both married Icelandic men, and since then, Sigal has raised three children at different lengths in both Iceland and Israel.

Silences often fell between us. Much of the time I felt that Sigal was not in my company at all, nor I in hers. Sometimes she only fixed me with the mild, half-focused gaze of a dreamer, and although she spoke of so much happiness—a year ago, in the same café, they held an informal Hanukkah celebration and were now preparing for another—there was in this look something witheringly sad and lost. And she was still afraid: afraid that some Icelander might recognise the Jewish symbols with which she imbues her jewellery, afraid of being photographed for this article, afraid of speaking openly about her culture with her children’s classmates and with her own Icelandic relatives.

“The synagogue? That’s Mike’s dream,”

Sigal Har-Meshi says. “All I want is a Jewish funeral for myself,” she says, referencing the open-air ceremony which trades stones for flowers as tribute to the dead, and which, to date, has never been performed in Iceland.

The year 2011 was, by all accounts, a historic year for Jews in Iceland. In the spring, the Orthodox Jewish organisation Chabad made clear its interest in developing the Jewish community here, sending Rabbi Berel Pewzner as its emissary to preside over the first kosher Passover Seder ever held in Iceland.

More than 50 people showed up for the service. The rabbi decided to return for the High Holy Days in the fall. They were the first formal services with a rabbi and kosher Torah scroll held in the city since World War II, when U.S. soldiers observed the holidays, even as Iceland followed other European nations in suit, denying German Jews sanctuary in Iceland.

In 2012, the rabbi came back and again presided over services. He insists on enthusiasm:

“We are now going through a very exciting stage of community building, with monthly meetings and children’s programmes, and hopefully we will have a synagogue and a permanent Jewish community centre in the very near future,” he said in an email to the Grapevine.

And yet, it is telling that when Mike mentioned feeling alone in his struggle, along with one other person, that that person was not Rabbi Berel Pewzner. It is tell-



ing that, when rabbis in strict adherence to kosher principles and decorum in services set their sights on a small community, the former leader of those services is displaced. It is further telling that, of the hundred or so Jews in Iceland—from the Argentinean coral researchers to the Venezuelan videographers, from the president of the Icelandic Ethical Humanist Association to the handful of Jewish musicians here, not a single one is, like the rabbi, an Orthodox Jew, though none strictly oppose him.

“When the rabbi came, it was interesting to see how the services were performed, to see more culture,” Sigal says. “But the truth is that the Jewish community in Iceland isn’t very religious.”

There’s no escaping the fact that most of the Jews in Iceland come from secular back-

grounds, and while they may be interested in occasionally meeting foreigners with similar cultural backgrounds and having their kids discover their ethnic Jewish roots, the community’s identity may not, in the end, lie in religion. The decision of Jews in Iceland not to push for a synagogue may not be cowardice, but honesty.

NODULES IN THE TREE

The community found in Mike the leader it needed. Not someone who could carry out the services perfectly, or someone insistent on a kosher Torah as opposed to a paper one, but someone who takes symbolic constructions like the ark for that paper Torah into his own hands, someone who can be their broker when the rabbi shows up and tell him that instead of kosher meals for services, they’d rather partake in an informal potluck.

With a synagogue, a more rigid hierarchy would replace skeletal phone trees and the same services Mike now cherishes might become alienating once more, as they were for him in Vienna. With a synagogue comes the question of who would lead those services, for it is a task for which Mike is not qualified, in the strictest sense. Indeed, when faced with the choice of presiding over a formal service like a Jewish wedding, Mike’s anxiety about his floating position has led him to decline the honour.

But still, though he’s served his community plenty, served it perhaps as much as it wants him to, there remains his unquenched ambition and his dream. There remains the impulse of the frontiersman to clear a path and break new ground.

Looking at the new generation of Jews in Iceland, and especially his own children, who were his most cherished reason for becoming involved in the first place, he can’t help but feel like the seeds he’s tried so hard to plant have either fallen on rocky soil, or weren’t the seeds he thought he’d planted all along.

“Why is there a synagogue in Oslo? Why are there synagogues in Copenhagen? There should’ve been one a long time ago, but there’s something that’s working against it,” he says.

Within days of our interview, Mike decided that my own study of the Jewish community was counter to its aims. In a zealous push, convinced that any press was bad press in a state where Jews are often misunderstood, he refused to let us take his photo. After much coaxing, he finally agreed to it an hour before print, but said he had a bad feeling about it.

In the summer, Mike will return with other community members to tend a plot of trees and new seedlings in Heiðmörk forest. They’ll pour mulch and clean a picnic table that is publicly used.

“Our plot doesn’t have the biggest trees,” he said to me. “But some of them were planted before I came here, over 25 years ago.”

Iceland follows Denmark in closing its doors to Austrian Jews. Several Jews are expelled from Iceland as Icelanders’ attitudes grow increasingly hostile toward Jews settled here.

The first Jewish congregation is established in Iceland. Jewish soldiers among the British forces practice the first non-Christian religious ceremony in Iceland in 940 years.

Iceland becomes independent. 2,000 Jewish soldiers are stationed in Iceland. 500 Jews are present at a Rosh Hashanah service at the Naval Air Station Keflavik.

Jewish author and journalist Alfred Joachim Fischer visits Iceland. He notes that almost all Jews settled in Iceland have taken Icelandic names.

Rabbi Berel Pewzner of the Orthodox Jewish organization Chabad presides over a Passover Seder in Reykjavík. Over 50 attend, and he is encouraged to return for more services in September.

1938

1940

1944

Jews In
Modern Iceland

1955

2011

1939

1941

1945

1947

2003

The Aid Association of German Jews concludes that refuge in Iceland from Nazi Germany is impossible.

More Jews, including a rabbi, arrive to Iceland with the American forces.

Nine Jews reside in Iceland, according to Iceland’s Statistics Bureau.

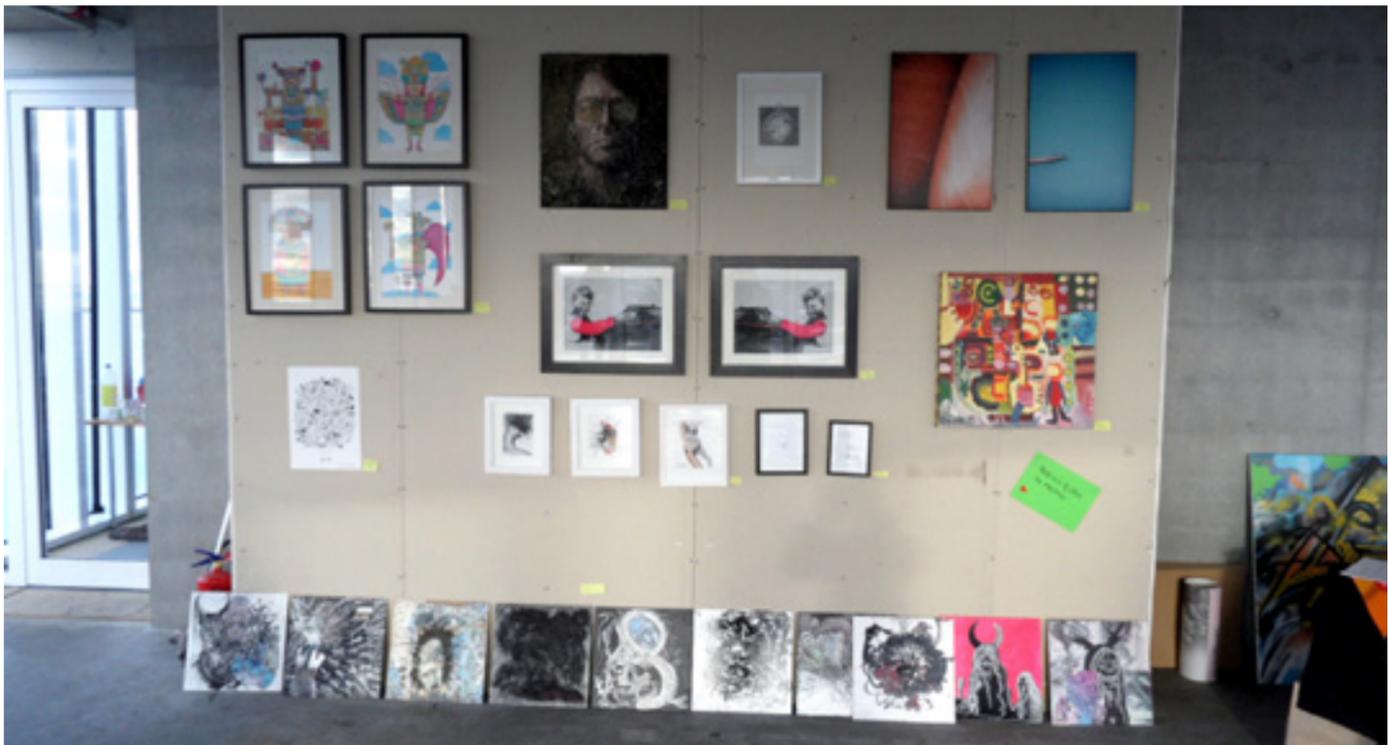
Iceland votes in favour of the Partition Plan at the United Nations. The plan is widely perceived as a boon for Israel.

President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson marries Dorrit Moussaieff. Dorrit, though secular, was born in Jerusalem to a wealthy Bukharian Jewish family. She is credited with bringing positive publicity to Iceland’s Jewry, though the community says she maintains her distance from them.

Finding Your Muse

Reykjavík's only online gallery showcases Icelandic art worldwide

Unlike traditional galleries, Muses has no brick and mortar structure, and instead exists completely online at Muses.is. Raket Sævarsdóttir, who has a background in art theory and a Master's degree in communication, began building Muses with the help of a programmer in 2009 while she was on maternity leave. She began contacting artists and a year later, in 2010, the site was launched and in 2011, she put on the first pop-up show. "The idea is to display the art online and then enhance it with these pop up exhibitions," Raket says.



Today, 20 artists are members of the Muses collective, many of whom have been personally recruited by Raket. Their styles range from classic oil paintings to street art to mixed media.

"My focus was first off all, young up-and-coming artists with different styles," Raket says. "So you'll see an artist doing traditional painting alongside another with a background in street art who hasn't been to traditional art school who is doing interesting things."

THE ART OF MANAGEMENT

Muses also handles what many artists consider the less glamorous side of being an artist—the business aspects. Raket handles everything from scouting locations, to promotion to curating the show. She also helps maintain the website, where each artist has his or her own profile, digital gallery and links to purchase dozens of original paintings, drawings, sculptures and prints. She takes commission on any sold works, and artists also pay a small fee to participate in the pop-up shows.

"I think self-promotion and marketing is actually an artist's worst nightmare," says Víðir Mýrman, an artist who specialises in oil paintings and showed his work at the most recent pop up show. "To put a price on your work, it's a constant headache for artists. I just want to spend my days in the studio, working on my paintings and don't want to really think about the other things."

Apart from Muses, many of the artists also host their own shows and promote their own work, and none of them are exclusively managed by Raket. However, having Muses on their side has made breaking into the art world easier for some.

"To physically go somewhere with a huge portfolio and be like, 'Hi here I am!' Trying to sell my ass; it's difficult for me," says Sýlvía Dögg Halldórsdóttir, an artist who works with mixed media and also showed work at the most recent pop-up exhibition. "This is more comfortable."

FREEDOM TO ROAM

Not being tied down to a space gives Raket the freedom to hold shows wherever she wants. The most recent

one in the Höfðatún building was an art show in the sky, with sweeping views of downtown Reykjavik serving as a backdrop for the sleek, simple show.

The location of the shows becomes part of the allure, and being 19 floors up in one of Reykjavik's tallest buildings, it's easy to see why: the venue becomes part of the installation.

Locations for past shows have included abandoned industrial areas, an old fish factory and a soda factory. Raket says these places can also be more inviting to people, as they aren't as formal as traditional galleries. "I want to bring the art closer to the public," Raket says. "Some people find it a bit overwhelming, to go into this white cube, like going to church or something."

That's not to say that sometime in the future Muses won't branch out and have a physical gallery. Raket briefly opened a small space on Laugavegur with two clothing

designers, but the space didn't last more than three months. "It's just a fact that running an art gallery is expensive," Raket says. "So I just decided that I was going to develop it online and work on these pop-up exhibitions. But of course hopefully we will have some kind of space for people to come."

Until then, Raket has been working to make Muses as accessible as possible. The site is available in English and Icelandic, and because of a new collaboration with an art historian from the Czech Republic, there are plans to translate it into Czech as well. The collective has also received invitations to host shows in Austria, Czech Republic and Denmark.

"There are so many ways that we can make art visible," Raket says. "We don't have to take some painting and fly it across the world; we can do a lot of things here."

— KIRSTEN O'BRIEN

"I want to bring the art closer to the public. Some people find it a bit overwhelming, to go into this white cube, like going to church or something"

Spotlight



Lovetank: Sýlvía Halldórsdóttir

For a tiny island nation that doesn't even have a national army, "war" is something that happens overseas. However, artist Sýlvía Halldórsdóttir, who has been part of Muses since 2011, is bringing the realities of conflict a little closer to home.

She began focusing on war imagery after spending time in Holland as an art student in 2003. While she was going to school, she watched as young soldiers were deployed to aid US soldiers in the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan. It was an especially striking experience for her, being born and raised in Reyðarfjörður, a small town in eastern Iceland.

"It was really weird finding myself in a big city, in a different country, where you had young people going to war. Every time I went to the train station, I could see young people all suited up, ready to go," she says. "I had never seen anything like that before." At the time, she was also keeping up with news and current events for a newspaper column, and she was struck by the gruesome realities of war: mothers losing children, nations losing their young people and innocent civilians dying in the crossfire.

It was this that led her to adopt the artistic identity she paints under today: Lovetank. "I started out in Holland painting images of victims and objects of war, and from there I painted my first Lovetank," she says, describing original as a large black tank made from a pattern of hearts with a soft pink background.

Sýlvía's work ranges from paintings to mixed media pieces, and although she often uses bright colours, she says she doesn't paint to simply make pretty pictures. Sometimes her imagery can be tough to swallow.

"People have told me my work is beautiful but some of it can be tough to look at," she says, pointing to a massive canvas behind her, which features a woman cloaked in a black hood with a pained expression, set against a blood red background. Sýlvía explains that it was inspired by a photo of a woman whose son had died in battle.

"People don't want to look at bad things, they want to look at happy things—things that make them feel good. My paintings tend to be happy colours, but kind of dark imagery."

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Meet 'new girl' Gréta, an 80-something-year-old go-getter who, after being dumped rather unceremoniously in a home for the elderly, soon finds fun and friendship in this not-so-unhappy setting. Gréta is just one of the loveable characters in 'Hjartaspaðar', a wonderful piece of theatre, combining the superb directorial skill of Ágústa Skúladóttir with exquisite mask-making techniques.

Gréta soon hooks up with Hannes, distinguished by his smooth charm and uncanny resemblance to a (somewhat older, grey-er and noticeably less limber) flare-clad John Travolta, in addition to Hannes' partner-in-crime, Grímur, whose greatest achievement each day involves successfully stimulating bowel movement (a happy day, indeed). Together, Hannes and Grímur contend for Gréta's attention in a series of comic sketches: cue heart-wrenching moments of abandoned, frail old lady juxtaposed with drunken orgies, romps on the bed, sneaking out for an illicit cigarette break and 'my guitar is bigger than yours' euphemisms.

What makes 'Hjartaspaðar' so unique, aside from its compelling characters and batty sketches, is that the entire play is performed through the medium of mask and mime. Without voice or facial expression to rely on, the talented cast of actors is forced to make use of subtle gestures and body language. Exaggerated action characterises this performance, and well-timed movements are crucial: be it a turn of the head, a hand on the hip (not necessarily one's own) or, in one particular scene, a bizarre flailing of limbs similar to an inebriated chipmunk. The action onstage works two ways, however, as the audience is required to read this universal language of mime, which draws both audience and actors into a metacommunicative dialogue transcending text and concrete meaning.

The set is simple, the storyline straightforward and the cast small; Gréta (Aldís Davíðsdóttir), Hannes (Orri Huginn Ágústsson) and Grímur (Stefán Benedikt Vilhelmsson) form the core characters, whilst the matron (Álfrún Gísladóttir) and two handymen (Erna Björk Einarsdóttir and Klæmint H. Isaksen) offer highly comic support. Together, the actors show, rather than tell, the quirks of old age and offer a window, or a snapshot, into the lively antics of an old people's home. The behaviour onstage is full of laugh-out-loud moments and slapstick scenes including an overly competitive chess game, in addition to a big-bosomed matron chasing surprisingly supple elderly men around the stage with a hypodermic needle.

Yet the magic of mask and mime which emanates from 'Hjartaspaðar' also has the power to lower the performance's light-hearted tone completely: there are some truly touching and lump-in-the-throat moments which prove, in this wonderful piece of whacky physical theatre, that despite the taboos surrounding it, old age can still be fun, friendly and full of laughs—both bowel movements and booze included. **♥ - ANNA MILLWARD**

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INTERVIEW



Alisa Kalyanova

Úslanders Albert Finnbogason, left, and Tumi Árnason, right

Together, Albert Finnbogason and Tumi Árnason don't only stroke the strings and blow the reeds with The Heavy Experience, their self-described "drone, spaghetti western and blues" influenced rock band. Since the release of the band's first LP—"Slowscope"—earlier this year, the two have also been operating their own label called Úsland, kicking off a series of online-released, fully improvisational records. We got in touch with Úslanders Albert and Tumi to find out more about the label, which they call "a fully sustainable platform driven by the willpower alone."

What made you want to start producing and publishing recordings of absolutely free improvisations?

We wanted to bring together musicians, to get to know them and give them free rein to create. As such music is occupying more and more space in our private record collections, we were interested in what Icelandic musicians are capable of when it comes to free improvisation.

Completely improvised music doesn't have a strong standing in Iceland, does it?

At least it's neither very visible nor accessible. Improvisational concerts and performances pop up every now and then, but usually they

are not documented and preserved. Improvisation mostly takes place behind closed doors of rehearsal spaces. So, by purposefully bringing together different artists, a certain interplay is born, which otherwise would never have been brought into existence. This can also break up the typical band format that can function as a hindrance to musical innovation.

You just bring musicians together in the studio and give them a green light to go?

Yes. The recording session takes place sometimes before a given weekend, some minimum post-production takes place during that very same weekend, and finally the record is released online at the beginning of the next week—costing as much or little as each person wants to pay for it. Any profit goes into the future production of 'ÚÚ' albums, which currently are released on a monthly basis and will hopefully continue to be so.

Freedom seems to be one of the project's key starting points. Does improvisation allow for more freedom than pre-composed music?

No, you always have the same creative freedom. The threshold, however, is you yourself. How easily and truly can you get your idea

out through the instrument? Are you capable of forming the idea at once? Or do you need to sit by and work on it for it to become true? When you're inside a studio with nothing in front of you—except a microphone and the tape is rolling—there's not much that can hold you back other than yourself.

But must there not be a certain artistic and even intrinsic difference between music that is, on the one hand, improvised from scratch, and on the other hand, fully or partly pre-composed?

Yes, there is a difference. A very strong foothold can be found in composed and highly practised music, something that is not evident in improvisation and might consist of the musicians' conviction or their harmonics and compositional experience. Or maybe not. In fact, it's probably very individually different. Therefore, it's interesting to explore how different musicians tackle improvisation. When a group of musicians come together with no common goal other than to intertwine their music into something functional, all communication becomes so careful and cautious. Everyone needs to tiptoe and listening becomes the key factor.

✂ - SNORRI PÁLL JÓNSSON ÚLFHILDARSON

ÚÚ For You

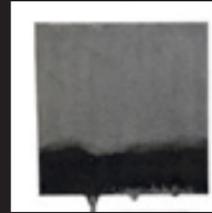
ÚÚ 1



Úsland has released four ÚÚ records. The first one, 'ÚÚ 1,' features two of Iceland's most prominent jazz musicians—guitarist Róbert Sturla

Reynisson and drummer Magnús Trygvason Eliassen—who, together with Héðinn Finnsson's hurdygurdycaster and Tumi Árnason's saxophone—create a skyful of soundclouds and rhythmic disorder, free from a slightest attempt into any structural safe-haven.

ÚÚ 2



The second one, 'ÚÚ 2'—performed by multi-instrumentalists Arnljótur Sigurðsson, Indriði Inngólfsson and Úlfur Hansson—stands further away from

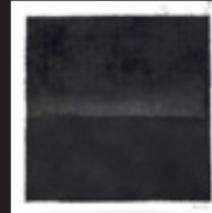
music genres, although it does at times resemble some of the most landscape-like experiments of the West-German kraut-rock of the late 1960's and early 1970's

ÚÚ 3

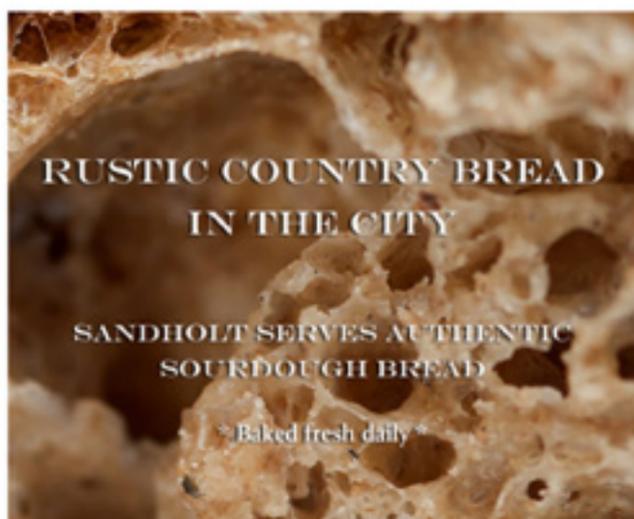


'ÚÚ 3' is entirely acoustic, offering a four-track fantasy of stroking, plucking and buzzing—and occasional coughing—performed by a classical string quintet comprised of Anna Sóley Ásmundsdóttir, Bára Gísladóttir, Kristín Þóra Haraldsdóttir, Pétur Eggertsson and Þórður Hermannsson.

ÚÚ 4



Finally, the key ingredients of 'ÚÚ 4' are the jazz-originated, often distorted horns of Ragnhildur Gunnarsdóttir and Eiríkur Orrí Ólafsson, smoothly blended with the advised daily intake of Steingrímur Teague's noisy keyboards and appropriate electronic spices from the kitchen of Guðmundur Vignir Karlsson aka Kippi Kaninus.



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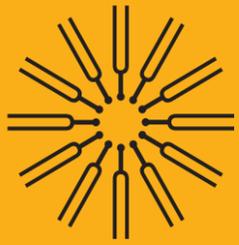
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Album

Reviews

+



My Bubba and Mi

Wild & You

2012

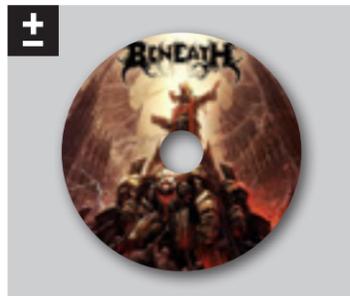
www.mybubbaandmi.com

Sugary sweetness for your tea

'Wild & You,' the latest output from Swedish/Icelandic bluegrass duo My Bubba and Mi, takes the form of a five-track EP consisting of their trademark old-timey-with-a-dash-of-sugar stuff. Their saccharine voices and twanging strings give it a down to earth vibe. With many more of the tracks, the album could verge on too-too sweet, but at this length it is manageable.

If you shut your eyes and listen, you can travel to a place which probably only exists in popular clichés of the American south: Wind stirring tall grass, an old jalousie put-putting down the road and a toothless hillbilly sweeping his porch in low, slanting sunlight. Clichéd imagery and all, the album nonetheless makes for a good listen. ☞ - **BERGRÚN ANNA HALLSTEINSDÓTTIR**

±



Beneath

Enslaved By Fear

2012

www.beneath.is

As far as plus/minus ratings go, this one is in the upper echelons

Anything Beneath touches oozes experience and focus. When they have something new out, people get anxious. Will they put everyone else to shame? Will they top their previous outputs? These are all relevant questions befitting a band of Beneath's stature.

'Enslaved By Fear' is relentless. This modern death metal cacophony is laced with nuances, a persuasion for melody and a barrage of riffs that dazzle yet sometimes irk. The triggered drumming boggles. The smorgasbord of riffs is baffling, but the execution impresses.

I particularly like the guitar tone, which is "earthy" in contrast to many bands of similar ilk. It also bears rare but organic gaffes not typically accepted in an over-produced genre. It sounds like a progressive war machine on the offensive against religion.

If you're not easily fatigued by extreme, brutal, grim, heavy and fast music, you'll be creaming your pants. Apart from the excellent title track and "Monolith," shaving some of the tremolo picking and blasting snare and kick-drums off the tracks would have made this one even stronger. ☞ - **BIRKIR FJALAR VIDARSSON**

+



Jónas Sigurðsson og Lúðrasveit Þorlákshafnar

Par sem himinn ber við haf

2012

www.jonassigurdsjon.com

Sailors are back in vogue!

Jónas knows how to open albums in a kick-ass manner and "Hafsins Hetjur" ("Heroes of the Sea") is no exception. The co-credited "Horn Blowers of Þorlákshöfn" sound like a '70s funk band on lýsi ("cod liver oil"). They bump and grind their way through this ode to drowning sailors. 2012 was the year that sailors came back into vogue, with Baltasar Kormákur's film 'The Deep' and a documentary called 'The Swim,' about heroic swimmers. Perhaps we are turning to our most traditional roles after the economic crash. In any case, Jónas followed his last greatest album, 'Allt Er Eitthvað,' with this one about the sea, the second track, "Hafið Er Svart," ("The Sea is Black"), a hauntingly beautiful song about sailors drowning

Heading out to sea is indeed a recurring motif, as in fact it was in the first Icelandic rock songs of the Beatles era. On the fifth track, he seems to attempt to write a traditional sailor song, even utilising a choir of senior citizens.

☞ - **VALUR GUNNARSSON**

+



Þórir Georg

I Will Die And You Will Die And It Will Be Alright

2012

http://thorirgeorg.tumblr.com

Cold comforts/gritty truths

'I Will Die And You Will Die And It Will Be Alright' reflects a world riddled with cold comforts. Singer/songwriter Þórir Georg uses the chanted title track as a clear-cut thesis statement: Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we might die. But at least there's a chance we might go out choking on cake.

Even with an emotional cloud over the slacker folk album, the musician manages a melancholy optimism. "If there is a God I hope he is more than what we talked about," Georg sings with a heart-crushing sincerity on "Thrive." Unlike the average poet with a guitar (Read: emo), Georg is unafraid to take a crooked path, dipping into a bag of tricks—including flat-footed vocal phrasing and liberal use of feedback—that points to his previous life as a hardcore punk.

While occasionally he takes a wrong turn and finds himself dead-ended by a trite phrase ("You Can Lead A Horse To Water But You Can't Make It Drink") his sense of honesty more or less supersedes the need to paint a pretty picture.

☞ - **LAURA STUDARUS**

+



Svavar Knútur

Ölduslóð

2012

www.svavarknutur.com

A nice companion to long winter nights

Despite (or perhaps because of) his sometimes aching sentimentality, Svavar Knútur is one of the more able English language lyricists in Iceland. He is no slouch in Icelandic either, and here he combines the two. He sort of says it plain on opener "Baby, Would You Marry Me," followed by, of all things, a Bloodhound Gang quote on "While The World Burns." The romanticism continues in Icelandic on "Emma," leading on to one of the albums highlights, the title cut 'Ölduslóð.' The outside world is cold and distant, Svavar's voice is warm and inviting, the sparse instrumentation fragile but proficient, and in the end, love is all that matters and shelter can be found in each other's arms. ☞ - **VALUR GUNNARSSON**

±



Ylja

Ylja

2012

www.facebook.com/yljaiceland

Earth Child Folk without the whimsy

In our quick fire digital music world, the concept of using album art as a primer to a band's music seems quaint, even alien, to many people. So hats off to trio Ylja for producing a magnificent cover. Harking back to those classic '60s/early '70s UK folk albums, it opens up like a double gatefold showing the band standing on a grassy hillside. The sun-filtered photos of the band on the other side connect their music to the feeling of wind in your face and grass under your feet.

Their music, a mix of folk sounds with the odd country twang, has a rustic simplicity. Tracks such as "Óður Til Móður" and "Á Rauðum Sandi" contain an earthiness with well-picked guitars complemented by the breathy yet strong vocal harmonies. But there are too many "Dun-dun-dun-duns," "Shooby-doooby-dum-dums" and "Aæ-Aæ-Aæ." Folk and country should be more about telling stories through lyrics instead of vocal stylings. But for a debut album that nails what the band and their sound are about, this is definitely a very strong showing. ☞ - **BOB CLUNESS**

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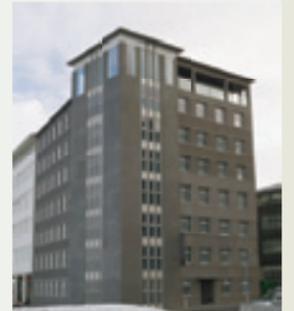
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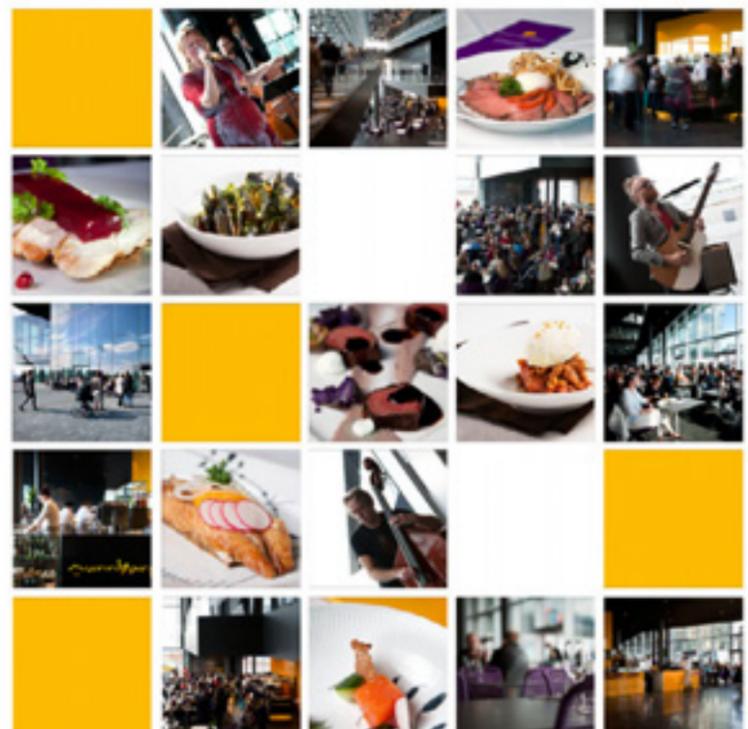
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Will Sónar Reykjavík Be The Second Hippest Long-Weekend On The Annual Music Festival Calendar?

Festival honcho Björn Steinbekk on the trials and tribulations of establishing a major event in deepest, darkest winter



Björn Steinbekk

The first Reykjavík edition of renowned international music festival Sónar will take place in a couple of weeks, and boy is that an exciting prospect. Sónar is of course a most well regarded music festival, conceived and based in Barcelona, Spain, where it's been an annual fixture since 1994. It has played host to almost every major player in electronic music and beyond, ever, billing itself as a 'Festival of Advanced Music and Multimedia Art'—the Barcelona edition also features cinemas, art exhibitions, technology forums, conferences, etc. It is a Big Thing, and now it's in Iceland, with the intent on being a permanent fixture. We caught up with Sónar Reykjavík manager Björn Steinbekk, who is making his return to the field of concert promotion after a few years' break, and asked him what's up with this whole thing.

Greetings, Björn Steinbekk, head of the newly minted Reykjavík edition of the prestigious Sónar music festival. Firstly, what can you tell us about yourself? Have you long been involved with promoting shows in Iceland? And how has the act of concert promoting in Iceland changed since you first got involved?

I first started out as promoter when I was 16 years old in a group called Pakkhús Postulanna ("The Apostles' Warehouse"). This fellowship, lead by one Þorsteinn Högni Gunnarsson, was the first to introduce rave parties to Reykjavík, back in 1988. I then carried it on with my friends and we held some memorable raves in Reykjavík from 1989 until 1992. Our venues varied from car dealerships, garages to basements on Laugavegur.

My first large arena concert was The Fugees in Laugardalshöll in 1997. That must be the most memorable concert I've promoted, due to its nature and the long road we took to make that happen.

Since I started doing this, the biggest changes are that the professionalism in the field has improved greatly, and those servicing concerts, companies such as Exton, have built up an inventory of knowledge and equipment. The only downside in today's concert business is that the public's ticket purchasing behaviour has changed. Icelanders have become very late in buying tickets.

WHY FEBRUARY, WHY?

The first edition of Sónar Reykjavík seems a ludicrously ambitious endeavour, as was to be expected from such an esteemed festival brand. How did Sónar Reykjavík come about—how long has this been in the making?

I along with Grímur Atlason from Iceland Airwaves had a meeting with Icelandair CEO

Birkir Hólm Guðnason and VP of Sales and Marketing Helgi Már Björgvinsson. They asked if an event during the winter could be established, "something like a DJ festival," was the terminology they used. I spoke to Daníel Atlason from LiveProject about the idea and he mentioned Sónar. From there, this was simply e-mails, phone calls, budget making and selling the owners of Sónar the idea that Reykjavík was a viable option. That was not the tough part. The tough part was convincing them that February was the right date. That was probably the hardest sell I have had to do.

Are there plans for Sónar to become an annual event? Will it be a permanent fixture on the 'annual festival calendar'?

We have a six-year agreement with the festival, so yes, this will be an annual event in February—but only if we believe this can be a success and manage to break even for the first year.

BELIEVE IN THIS

Did you encounter many obstacles in trying to stage the festival? What are some of the challenges of throwing a world-class party like this in 2013 Iceland?

The main obstacle is simply getting people to believe that you are serious and that this can be done. I thought we would attract considerable support for the festival from the City of Reykjavík and government agencies, but unfortunately it seems we have to establish the festival to gain some real support from those parties. The City of Reykjavík supports Sónar Reykjavík by the amount of 500.000 ISK, which is around 1.000 ISK per foreign guest that will be attending the festival.

Promote Iceland has supported the festival in the form of paying for specially chosen journalists to visit. Harpa and Icelandair have been very

supportive of the project, along with our sponsors, but this is an uphill battle for the first year. That is fine, but as politicians keep talking about attracting more tourists to Iceland during the wintertime, we expected more.

IS ÁSGEIR TRAUSTI 'ADVANCED' ENOUGH?

Our Facebook page saw some self-described 'music nerds' complaining about the inclusion of artists like Mugison and Ásgeir Trausti—whose latest work seems more in the classical guitar music camp—on the bill of an 'advanced music festival' Is this something you need to pay mind to when planning the festival? Can artists be 'too straight' for Sónar?

Lana Del Rey played Sónar Barcelona in 2012. She would hardly be described as traditional Sónar artist. Sónar is not about what is hip and cool in the electro scene, that is a misunderstanding. Sónar is all about the relevance of the artist and his or her accomplishments. Ásgeir Trausti is a success story. He has sold more records than many do in a lifetime. Mugison has played three times at various Sónar events and in Barcelona. They love him, and he will be performing with his famous Mirstrument. This is not going to be a traditional Mugison show.

What are some of the artists you are most looking forward to seeing perform at the festival?

Squarepusher, James Blake, Ryuichi Sakamoto, Modeselektor, GusGus and the younger and up and coming Icelandic artists that are performing. Reykjavík Allstars in the parking garage stage will be my last rave, where all the old DJs play music from 1987 to 1992.

✂ - HAUKUR S. MAGNÚSSON

Go See These People At Sónar Reykjavík By Bob Cluness

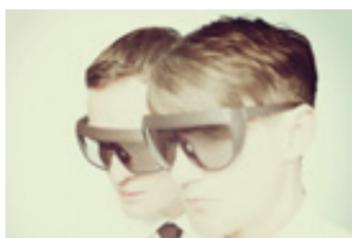
With a heady line-up that's heavy on local talent and features some surprisingly eclectic international names, we couldn't be more excited for the first Reykjavík edition of the legendary Sónar festival. Grapevine's resident music know-it-all Bob Cluness put together a list of five acts he thinks you should definitely try to see at the festival—go to www.sonarreykjavik.com for the full schedule and elaborate artist info.



Pedro Pilatus

Pedro Pilatus is the DJ/producer side project of Retro Stefson bassist Logi Pedro Stefánsson who works out his electronic bass and turntable chops across a host of bars in 101 when he's not otherwise engaged. Just before 2012 closed, he released his debut EP, 'Calia,' on UK independent label Cool Kid Music, which contains a blend of grubby bass sounds with jackin' house and garage beats. Great things are expected from this man as he embarks on his own incredible journey (minus the dog and cat of course).

Where: Harpa Silfurberg
When: Friday 15 Feb, 19:30



Diamond Version

The German electronic label Raster Noton is renowned worldwide for their vision of a machine music aesthetic that is hard, minimal and relentless. Sónar Reykjavík is lucky to feature label founder Carsten Nicolai, who will be playing with composer Ryuichi Sakamoto under his Alva Noto alias. But it is his new project Diamond Version (along with Raster Noton stablemate Olaf Bender, AKA Byetone) where the real interest is. With two EPs already under their belt and a third lined up, their music mixes Teutonic electro and techno with disembodied robot slogans and industrial precision. Vorsprung durch Technik indeed.

Where: Harpa, Norðurljós
When Friday 15 Feb, 22:00



James Blake (DJ set)

Even though James Blake is well known for his self-titled 2011 debut, his soulful, dub-heavy style is not quite a hit with everyone (Portishead's Geoff Barrow famously said of his single "Limit To Your Love," "Will this decade be remembered as the dubstep meets pub singer years?"). But when it comes to DJing, he is a different beast altogether. Having already played in Iceland at Airwaves 2010, his DJ sets at Bakkus (Now Harlem) were a highlight of the festival. Mixing R&B, dubstep, garage and much more, this will be a set that will definitely move and surprise you.

Where: Harpa, Car Park
When: Friday 15 Feb, 02:00



LFO

It's no overstatement to call LFO one of the founding fathers of techno and acid house, their 1991 record 'Frequencies' being one of the classics of electronic music and the high point in the British "bleep and bass" sound. Although the duo has now been reduced to the solo efforts of Mark Bell, LFO are still going strong, packing venues and making music that is still forward looking and fresh as the day is long.

Where: Harpa, Silfurberg
When: Saturday 16 Feb, 02:00



Oculus

Iceland's electronic music scene would be no more than a limp fart in the wind if it weren't for the trail-blazing efforts of Friðfinnur "Oculus" Sigurðsson. In addition to being the engine of house music group Sísý Ey, he has released numerous singles and EPs for a brace of European labels that showcase the range and quality of his production, from hi NRG techno to punchy Euro house. His travels have seen him perform all over Europe including Berlin's legendary Berghain club, and with a full-on live show that's yet to put a step wrong, he should definitely be bringing his A-game to the proceedings.

Where: Harpa Bay View Area
When: Friday 15 Feb, 00:00

Across 110th Street

Harlem is the new kid on the Naustin block



The Harlem gang, Árni Már Erlingsson, Kristjana Björg Reynisdóttir & Guðrún Harðardóttir

One can't be blamed for confusing the new bar on Naustin with one of its former tenants. A stylishly whimsical logo graces the front of the building, heavy black curtains still line the inside of the glass-panelled doors, and a similar sensory overload that blends elements of psychedelia, naiveté and irony await inside. The dance floor is small but the music is fun and retro in that classic John Hughes movie soundtrack kind of way. Familiar faces of musicians, artists and bar-entrepreneurs line the stools at the bar. The staff are a *déjà vu*. They may have different parents, but Harlem sure looks like Bakkus' younger sibling.

Make no mistake though; while they share the spitting image of being born from the same local scene that embraces musical inclusivity and an exuberant DIY aesthetic, Harlem does not wear hand-me-downs and, like a lot of younger siblings, it seems to have learned from the failures of its elders.

FOURTH TIME'S A CHARM

"We wanted to open a place that was colourful and fun and different from the other places in town," says Kristjana Björg Reynisdóttir, chief of staff and head of the bar at Harlem. "We didn't want to go with a theme because we'd like to have some longevity." This is an ambitious goal to have for a location that has seen three different bars come and go in less than four years—the last being Þýski barinn ("German bar"), which was there for less than a year.

Kristjana co-runs the bar with Steindór Grétar Jónsson, Villy Þór Ólafsson and Dagný Ósk Aradóttir Pind. She landed on the bar's name as the team were brainstorming through cities and countries for inspiration. "It reminded us of some-

thing that was rough and also up-and-coming, so we went with it," she says. "You could say that I christened the bar."

Even without a theme, Harlem does stand out as a living work of art. Nearly every square inch of the place has been emblazoned by the paintbrush, pen or print of a local artist or designer. "There's so much and it's all so different," Kristjana says. "You could spend days in here just looking at the walls!" This was orchestrated by artist Árni Már Erlingsson, who was put in charge of the bar's décor. He gathered sixteen artists, a mix of up-and-coming and fairly well recognised names who, along with carpenters Sigmar Freyr Eggertsson and Örn Ingi Guðnason, built and painted the place in three weeks.

PARTY ALL THE TIME

Their other claim to hopeful glory is their booking schedule. "Our goal is to have events every night," Kristjana says. "The people that come here are really diverse, too—people of all ages and all styles. It's a really nice atmosphere." For this reason too, they try to keep their events as varied as possible with DJs, small live concerts, cult television show pub quiz themes, bad movie nights and weekly screenings of NBA games.

Additionally, they have rebuilt a wall that had been torn down in 2010 to merge Bakkus with the short-lived show room, Venue. (A new concert venue named Volta, owned and managed by the same team, will open in the space next door on February 8.) The goal of this was to keep Harlem small and cosy unlike its sibling-like predecessor. "We will be running both places, but we want to keep them completely separate," Kristjana says. "We want to keep Harlem the way it is."

✎ - REBECCA LOUDER

The bar's interior was painted by Arna Óttarsdóttir, Árni Már Erlingsson, Björn Loki Björnsson, Bobby Breiðholt, Davíð Örn Halldórsson, Guðmundur Ingi Úlfarsson, Guðmundur Thoroddsen, Guðrún Harðardóttir, Hrefna Hörn, Mundi Vondi, Ragnar Fjalar Lárússon, Sigurður Þórir Ámundrason, Sigurður Atli Sigurðsson, Sunna Ben, Þorvaldur Jónsson and Þórarinn Ingi Jónsson

The Grapevine's Sónar Survival Guide

Some quick tips and tricks for festival visitors

Greetings festivalgoer! Since this is the first ever edition of Sónar Reykjavík, we are all in a sense first timers, but some of you may be new to Iceland and our nightlife. Perhaps you have heard of it (it's quite notorious). One shouldn't believe everything one hears, but a lot of it is true. With that in mind, here are a few practical suggestions to help you through our lovely city over what's sure to be a very wild weekend.

COFFEE, CAFÉ, KAFFI!

There is no shortage of marvellous places to get a good strong jolt of caffeine here. The top dog is **Kaffismiðjan** (Kárástigur 1), which roasts its own beans and keeps the service quick and cosy. A few blocks down from there you'll find **Litli Bondabærinn** (Laugavegur 41), which has killer beverages, savoury pastries and organic sandwiches. For coffee closer to Harpa, head to **Café Haiti** (Geirsgata 7c), which not only offers some of the finest beans but is also a great spot to hang out.

GASTRONOMY TOWN

At a music festival, eating often comes down to terrible junk food or overpriced fare. Luckily there are some pretty tasty quick eats here, like the food at **Prikið** (Bankastræti 12), which offers a great selection of burgers, light lunch meals and all-day breakfast at nice prices. For some casual-fancy and truly excellent dining, try the relatively new **Snaps Bistro** (Þórsgata 1). If you want to stay close to the festival base, you could do a lot worse than **Munnharpan** (Harpa) with its extensive lunch and dinner menus, and a great view to boot.

COCKTAILS & HEADACHES

Whether you're getting ready to go out or winding down your night, nothing beats finding a nice bar to relax and sip some drinks. The off-venues for Sónar are great spots—**Harlem**, **Volta**, **Café Reykjavík** and **Kaffibarinn** – but if they prove too packed, check out **Dolly** (Hafnarstræti 4), **Faktorý** (Smíðjustígur 6) or **Litla Gula Hænan** (Laugavegur 22). If you wake up in pain the following day, chug down a couple of litres of our clean cold tap water, grab a burger and hit the hot tubs at **Sundhöllin** (Barónstígur). Most importantly, be cool and have a great time! Happy Sónar!

✎ - REBECCA LOUDER

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Minke whale tatakí

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F249 Þórsmörk

Distance from Reykjavík: Þórsmörk Canyon is about 156 km from Reykjavík. Total driving time from Reykjavík is about three hours.

Super Jeep tours of Þórsmörk are available through Eskimos Iceland in association with South Iceland Tours. Visit www.iceland.eskimos.is to book a similar tour.



The Centre Of The Universe

Seeing Icelandic nature from a monster truck



Words by Kirsten O'Brien
Theresa Schnöll

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“Welcome to the centre of the universe,” our guide Stefnir Gíslason says as we drive along a snow-covered, two-lane road surrounded by barren, snow-covered cliffs. We are arriving at the convergence zone of three massive glaciers, including the famously unpronounceable Eyjafjallajökull.

It’s almost 10:00 AM and the winter sun casts soft purplish-pink shadows across the landscape. The snow-covered horizon makes it nearly impossible to distinguish where earth meets sky. The still, desolate landscape hardly seems like the centre of anything, let alone the universe.

IF YOU’RE EVER FORDING A RIVER

Our group of six—three guides and three travellers—are in the midst of the quiet solitude that is Þórsmörk Canyon, located about two hours southeast of Reykjavík. Named after the Norse god Thor (Þór), the area is a popular hiking spot for the more adventurous.

For now, we take the landscape in from the comfort of our lifted Ford Expedition with monster truck-sized wheels. As we amble along in the cradle of Mýrdalsjökull glacier, Stefnir explains that the valley didn’t always look this way. As chunks of ice and rock crunch under our massive tires, he points to the vehicle’s GPS, which suggests that the area is underwater. After the 2010 Eyjafjallajökull eruption, the Krossá River became choked with debris and formed a large, ashy lagoon, which only recently disappeared.

Stefnir winds the car through the landscape before heading straight toward the river. He slows down before crossing, looking over his shoulder as if casually making a right hand turn onto a city street full of traffic. “Always cross at the widest part of the river, it’s shallower,” he says gleefully as the massive vehicle barrels through the ice and water. He also notes it’s always better to drive with the river current rather than against it, and to watch the edges of the river bank—the higher the edge, the deeper the water. I can’t help but think he would make an excellent, if unconventional, driving instructor.

SORE FINGERS AND JELLY ARMS

We park the monster truck on the other side and gear up for a trek. We trudge through the crunchy snow for a good twenty minutes before arriving at our destination: the mouth of

massive ice cave where the glacier has split the rocky cliff in half.

Our guides warn us to not get too close to the cave, as ice chunks could fall without warning. Instead, I stand at the cavernous opening and stare into the darkness, being careful not to get my boots wet in the icy river that flows from the cave.

To my right, our guides begin to rig a climbing rope on a solid wall of ice just outside the cave. Our second guide, Guðmundur Fannar Markússon, gracefully swings the pick into the ice to demonstrate and secures it on the first try. One by one we try our hand at the task, and we discover it isn’t so easy.

It takes me several tries to secure the first pick, and even more tries to stab my crampons into the ice. Halfway up, my arms are beginning to feel like jelly. Panting and sweaty, I finally reach the top and the guides lower me down. As my feet touch the ground, I realise how tightly I had been gripping the ice pick, and as I release my grasp I feel the blood rushing back into my now very sore fingers.

I am content to take a seat in the snow and watch the others try their hand at climbing before we all pile back into the Ford, our refuge from the cold.

SOME THINGS ARE UNIVERSAL

Before returning to paved asphalt roads and civilisation, Stefnir once again veers our beastly vehicle off the beaten trail, and we begin our ascent up Hamragarðaheiði, a mountain path that snakes up the Eyjafjöll mountains.

The sun begins to set, once again bathing the glistening snow in purplish-pink evening shadows. We reach a flat vantage point to stop, and look out over the expansive wilderness below. We even see the Westman Islands floating in the distance, like fantasy castles in the clear, crisp sky.

Before heading back to the black sand beaches at Landeyjarfjara, Einar Sigurðsson, our third guide, asks where we’d like to have dinner. I look at my fellow starving travellers, but none of us have any strong opinions. He suggests Gallery Pizza in Hvolsvöllur, a favourite amongst the guides. “I’ve never met anyone who didn’t like their pizza,” he says.

Some things, it seems, are universal.

“
We reached a flat vantage point to stop where we could see the Westman Islands floating in the distance, like fantasy castles in the sky
”

Answer to trivia question on page 2:

A Davidó Oddsson

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On A Date With:

Oyama

Horseback riding with a fast-rising local band

This time last year, the band Oyama did not exist. By May, the five-piece was playing gigs and having their praises sung by fans and critics alike for their grungy, gauzy, early '90s slow-core tunes. They landed a management deal with Projekta after playing every night of Airwaves in November. Now they are headed to by:Larm in Oslo in two weeks, followed by SXSW in Austin, Texas this March and The Great Escape in Brighton, England this May.



As news broke of them launching their first EP, 'I Wanna,' we decided it was time to take this hard working band out for some well-deserved fun and games. So we took them horseback riding. We picked them up the morning after their EP release concert at Faktory and got to know them as we headed to the stables.

When you formed this band, did you hope or expect to take this direction so quickly?

Júlia: I don't think any of us thought this would happen, but at the same time we all worked really hard and put all our energy into this.

Úlfur: Over a year ago, I realised that I had been in bands for four years but none of them played my favourite kind of music, which is the kind that Oyama plays. This kind of nineties, indie, melodic, woozy rock with slow eerie vocals. Nice stuff like that. I decided I had to form a band that played what I really like.

Is it all your favourite kind of music?

Júlia: It's not my top favourite but it's definitely something I find really fun and that I can perform. I mean, I really like rap music but I can't rap, so... [laughs.]

Rúnar: For me, it has a lot to do with when I was a teenager and I was just getting into music; that was the kind of music I really liked then, so it kind of shaped how I perceive music and how it should be. Now I don't listen to this kind of music every day, but I think it has a lot to do with that. [Rest of the band agrees.]

Úlfur: I just started writing songs that I would want My Bloody Valentine, Sonic Youth or Dinosaur Jr. to write. Thinking like, if I was in those bands, what kind of song would I write, and I worked with that.

Is that not being a bit derivative?

Úlfur: No, because they are still our songs. We are still writing our own melodies. We're just under the influence, you could say, but they would never write the songs we write.

Júlia: For me the most important thing is not writing "shoegaze" music but writing good music, so if they wrote shoegaze but they were shitty songs, I wouldn't have joined the band. Honestly, when I showed up to the first practice I only knew Bergur, and I was really bored and thinking, "oh shit, maybe they're terrible musicians, but I'll give them a chance!" [Everyone laughs.]

Bergur: If you're asked to join a

band that tells you "yeah, we're doing nineties grunge shoegaze stuff," it can be really, really shitty. It's very dependent on very good song writing.

Úlfur: I wouldn't even call us a shoegaze band because our new songs are already starting to go in another direction. More psychedelic.

Júlia: Yeah, we're moving a little bit more into our own thing and the people who come to our shows seem to be really into it, so maybe that's a sign that we should move a bit further.

How does it feel to have had all these big things happen in the last few months and to be on the cusp of more?

Júlia: It's great, but scary. I've been making music for so long but more as a hobby and now it's more like work.

Rúnar: Extremely overwhelming, but really enjoyable. I love it. When I was playing with Me, the Slumbering Napoleon, we were so lazy. It was just dudes hanging out and making eccentric music that only we kind of got. Oyama is so active and it's so much fun. We've had a lot of success and it's like... holy shit. This could be for real. **REBECCA LOUDER**

Horsing Around

Our trip took place the day after their EP release concert, which they naturally followed by some serious partying. After a rousing ninety-minute horseback ride through a snowy lava field outside of Hafnarfjörður, they looked a little exhausted and three of them were frozen to the bone (and that's why you always wear the coveralls!), but also invigorated and refreshed. Here's what they each had to say about their experience.

Bergur Anderson

Bass
(also of Sudden Weather Change)
Horse's name: Embla



Although the excursion was refreshing enough to cure his hangover, by the end he was riding shotgun with the tour leader, who was firmly holding onto his horse's reins. "I think it's because it was very windy," he said. "It makes the horses very tense and mine was freaking out. She just wanted to run back home."

Rúnar Örn Magnússon

Drums
(also of Me, the Slumbering Napoleon)
Horse's name: Ísar



Since he had never ridden a horse before, he admits being nervous beforehand but concealed it well. "I was always kind of afraid of riding and I'm surprised how it wasn't a big deal," he said. "My favourite part was when my horse wasn't running, but I'm really glad we went. It was great."

Júlia Hermannsdóttir

Vocals and keyboard
(also of We Painted The Walls and Feather & Folly (NYC))
Horse's name: Slaufa



Having been a regular equestrian as a kid, she was the only experienced rider of the bunch and didn't let a little flu and fever stop her from having a nice day. "She was a very good horse," she said. "She just did everything I told her to so that was nice."

Kári Einarsson

Guitar
(also of Fist Fokkers)
Horse's name: Sykur



Seemingly the most exhausted of the lot, he bundled up in a snowsuit and saddled up on a horse that looked like it had a bit of an attitude problem. "He's okay, but seems to have a really big head," he said. "He just kept biting on the metal thing!"

Úlfur Alexander Einarsson

Vocals and guitar
(also of Swords of Chaos, Útidúr and Fist Fokkers)
Horse's name: Eldur



Prior to arriving at the stables, he jokingly maintained that he had never seen a horse. He, too, opted out of the snowsuit and it made his already bad hangover all the worse. "It was fun, but I had a pretty bad headache," he said. "And it was extremely cold. We will never forget it."

On A Date With:

This is the first instalment of a new series where we take an interview out on an activity. Really it's just a way for us to scam a date with some of the super cool, culturally relevant and interesting people in town. Lucky us!

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GALLERIA HUUTO

“An Ice Evening” At The Europa Restaurant & Bar

This poem about the EuroZone Crisis was written by Hallgrímur Helgason this summer for the International Literature Festival in Berlin and was published on the festival website in English and German along with 30 some other entries by fellow European writers. He describes it as an ironic poem in which he imagines himself at a fictional reading somewhere in Mittel Europa.

By Hallgrímur Helgason

It was during the crazy euro days,
I came down from the furthest of the far.
An e-mail said the reading would take place
“In the famous Europa Restaurant & Bar”.

The taxi driver, a man of the mustached world,
Drove me madly, cursing each traffic light,
While telling me in an accent I hadn't heard:
“I know this bar, is problem, sometime fight.”

He entered a dead end street, with foreign skill,
Then suddenly stopped, and in the rear-view grinned.
In the face of his face my euro bill
trembled like a candle in the wind.

The place was packed, with people sitting outside
Conversing loudly, a table sang in Greek.
Down the street the day was out of light
A bit like me, the arctic circle freak...

Inside, the barscape breathed with old and cozy.
Every mouth was stuffed with sound and sausage.
And every table seemed to be a country
For every table spoke its private language.

Some English breakfast types were having dinner,
While the Slovakian couple in the corner
Had finished theirs, and the gayish guys from Finnair
Were ordering a round of “Bakaardi Briser”.

A chubby bald man came waving from the bar
In a bright red jacket, a button on his breast:
A deep blue sky with many a yellow star.
“Oh, here you are, our literary guest!”

“I'm Andy Freude. Welcome to our club!”
He seemed half German, half Pit Bull Terrier,
Looking like he owned an Irish pub.
“So finally we have our Icelander!”

“Can you read in Icelandic? Wait! Let me fetch
You a drink!” He left me reading the atmosphere:
A swarming sea of countries, laughing heads,
But still, a touch of tension in the air.

A longhaired girl came rushing from outside
And gravely whispered into the bald man's ear
Something about “Italians” and “tight”.
I helped them out by grabbing the bald man's beer.

“Oh, sorry! Let me tell you about our team!
We work across all borders, day and night,
Realizing the European dream
Of one heart, one goal, one gezelligheid.”

“We do believe that by connecting different countries
Different people will find a different substance
That differs from their different differences.
It's sort of a different way of making a difference.”

I managed to nod in the middle of a sip.
“And all the people who are gathered here
Have been aboard our continental ship
Sailing from Brest to Brest, since early this year.”

Suddenly there was a waiter who said:
“The people outside, they do not want to pay.”
Mr. Freude immediately turned his head
Towards the windows. “Why? And who are they?”

“They tell me that they're also with the group.
Even though their bill says otherwise.
Instead of having the sausage and the soup
They ordered steak béarnaise and a barrel of fries.”

The longhaired beauty stepped in: “It's the Greeks.
They're drunk and shouting about the credit crunch.”
The national red of Austria lit her cheeks.
Waiter: “They've been sitting there since lunch.”

“They say that you, or “the Germans”, have to pay,”
The server insisted, waving the heavy bill.
“This is not our European way...”
The man in the bright red jacket said with chill.

“Why on earth should others pay their food?!”
Why on earth should they not pay themselves?!”
“Their travel fund got stolen by their dude
So now they want some help from our reserves.”

Now Freude's face was totally ohne Freude,
His yellow teeth like stars in a bluish face.
One could read his forehead: Diese Leute...
While dandruff hovered like satellites in space.

After a heavy silence, he finally said:
“OK. Let me talk to Angela.”
Where is she?” The Austrian pointed ahead:
“She's there with Nicolas, no... Francois.”

And in a moments time they all came over:
Angela, Francois, Andy and some others,
While from behind the counter rushed the owner
To have a little talk about the Commerz.

But in the middle of this hasty meeting
From the kitchen came two waiters ailing
Holding plates containing chocolate pudding
And on their heels the calvados came sailing.

“Who ordered dessert? We're only having coffee!”
Angela thundered, glaring at the dishes.
The three young waiters paused, one saying softly:
“The happy people outside had those wishes.”

“We all agreed on cuts in travel spending!”
The sturdy looking woman almost shouted.
And as the angry sentence gets an ending
Exclamation mark, the place exploded.

They all ran out, their hairdos swiftly shaking
From angry voices attacking the table of Greece.
There was some finger-pointing (and fingered pudding)
And counterattacking: “We have no money! Please!”

Soon all of Europe was outside the Europa
With only the lonely writer left inside.
Ég fylgdist með og fékk mér annan sopa.
The verbal war was now a bloody fight.

Then Andy came back inside with a bunch of sorries
And one shoulder aching from a beating.
“Though we now could do with some ice cool stories,
I'm afraid we have to cancel the reading.”

“Still I want to pay you what we promised,”
He grimaced, pulling out an envelope.
I didn't feel like accepting, to be honest,
But of not accepting there was no hope.

So when he left for the toilet I started thinking
And asked a waiter for the Greek amount.
“Three hundred forty nine,” he told me, blinking.
I opened the envelope and made a count.

It proved enough, and thus we had a bailout
The waiter rushed outside: “It's all OK!
The bill's been paid!” And soon the bloody breakout
Was back inside and asking: “Who did pay?”

I felt the pressure, they wanted me to say
Something, made me stand upon a stool:
“Who did pay and who did not want to pay?”
It's not a question from economic school.”

Their intercontinentally colored eyes
Lit up with egonomical confusion.
Who got this Santa Claus from the land of ice?
Yet I carried on with his conclusion:

“Sometimes a reading is worthier than the eating,
Even when no reading has taken place.
You got me here to give your souls a feeding
But ended up by stuffing it in your face.

Now there's nothing left for us to eat
Except those things in life that come for free.
So if you want, I might as well just read
The lines your little brawl evoked in me:

The Greeks have taught us everything we know
Even though they themselves forgot it all.
It's only normal they now think we owe
Them a little trip to the Euro Mall.”

An icy evening ends with the warmest greeting,
From literature, this economic nurse.
We hope you'll get the message of our meeting:
That the pen is mightier than the purse.”



Illustration
Lóa Hjálmtýsdóttir

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Page 6



If these tourists are still coming to enjoy the favourable exchange rate, they should know that goods and services are on average 60% more expensive than they were before the crash.

**Is Iceland still a great deal for tourist?
We investigate... Iceland!?**

Page 14



Reykjavík's homeless problem doesn't manifest itself in the usual ways. It wouldn't be hard to spend a week or two downtown taking in the city's whimsical, idyllic atmosphere and be convinced that homelessness just doesn't exist in Iceland.

**Taking a look inside the life of those
who live outside.**

Page 24



The tough part was convincing them that February was the right date. That was probably the hardest sell I have had to do.

**Björn Steinbekk talks to us about managing
the newly minted Reykjavík edition of the
prestigious Sónar music festival**

Page 28



After a rousing ninety-minute horseback ride through a snowy lava field outside of Hafnarfjörður, they looked exhausted and frozen to the bone (and that's why you always wear the coveralls!), but also invigorated and refreshed.

**On a horseback riding date with the
cool new band Oyama**

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Iðnó
Saturday February 2, 21:00 Free admission before midnight, 1,500 ISK after

This will be a night where, regardless of your sexual orientation, the inner queen within you is encouraged to shine with all that glitters. A stand out night on the Reykjavík gay scene, Pink Iceland's Masquerade Ball is a highlight during the winter social season. Our gay scene is increasingly attracting rave reviews, both domestically and from abroad, and the Masquerade Ball promises to be spectacularly pink and gorgeous, with all the flair and glamour of a drag queen's jewellery box. Guests are wholeheartedly encouraged to camp it up in the most jewel-bedecked mask as possible, with a prize being awarded to the best mask of the night. So on this night to out-colour everything else on offer, check out the Masquerade Ball and remember: don't be a drag, just be a queen! JL

Photo by Alisa Kalyanova

MUSIC

CONCERTS & NIGHTLIFE

February

How to use the listings
Venues are listed alphabetically by day.
For complete listings and detailed information on venues or to add your own listing, visit www.listings.grapevine.is

Friday February 1

- Bar 11**
• 21:00 Morning After Youth & Ferja Faktory
Faktory
• 22:00 DJ KGB & Úlfur Úlfur
Gamli Gaukurinn
• 21:00 Guns 'N' Roses Tribute Night Harlem
22:00 Terrordisco
Harpa Concert Hall
• 22:30 Pink Iceland – Eurovision Concert
Kaffibarinn
• 20:00 DJ Kári
Kjallarinn
• 22:00 DJ Dramatík
Prikið
• 20:00 Logi Pedro

Saturday February 2

- Bar 11**
• 21:00 Dimma
Faktory
• 22:00 DJ Stef
Gamli Gaukurinn
• 22:00 HETJUR
Gay 46
• 21:00 DJ Early
Harlem
• 22:00 FM Belfast DJs
Hressó
• 22:00 Tandoori Johnsson & DJ Biggi
Iðnó
• 22:00 Pink Iceland – Pink Party
Kaffibarinn
• 20:00 Maggi Legó a.k.a Hunk of a Man
Prikið
• 20:00 DJ Árni Kacoon

Sunday February 3

- Harlem**
• 18:00 NBA and Super Bowl
Kaffibarinn
• 20:00 Kristinn Pálsson
Prikið
• 20:00 Movie night – Dog Day Afternoon

Monday February 4

- Faktory**
• 20:00 Divine Intervention
Harlem
• 20:00 Bad Movie Night: Troll 2
Kaffibarinn
• 20:00 Pan (Extreme Chill)
Prikið
• 20:00 Monday Bingo

Tuesday February 5

- Harlem**
• 20:00 Jóni de la Rosa
Kaffibarinn
• 20:00 Símon FKNHNSM
Prikið
• 20:00 Ljósvali

Wednesday February 6

- Harlem**
• 20:00 It Is Magic
Kaffibarinn
• 20:00 Atli Kanill – Ninja Tune Special
Kjallarinn
• 22:00 DJ Kidda Rokk
Prikið
• 20:00 Dungeon Massive

Thursday February 7

- Bar 11**
• 21:00 Camp Keighley & Stolið
Dolly
• 21:00 Breakbeat Residency night
Faktory
• 22:00 Nóra and Oyama
Gamli Gaukurinn
• 22:00 Biggi Maus & 1860
Harlem
• 20:00 DJ Pilsner
Hressó
• 22:00 Reykjavík Winter Festival Concert
Kaffibarinn
• 20:00 HúsDJús with BenSol

15-16
Feb



Sound Pulses & International Echos Sónar Reykjavík

Harpa | 18:30 - 3:00

14.900 ISK

Our fair city is the latest to join the ranks of one of the most innovative and experimental international festivals. Since 1994, Sónar has been held in Barcelona as a symposium and concert series focused on new media art and advanced music, and in 2002 it became an international franchise with events held in places like São Paulo, Tokyo, Frankfurt, Montreal, Chicago and many more. Over the years it has hosted cutting edge electronic artists, musical groundbreakers and cultural iconoclasts. Now it is our turn. Over the third weekend of the month, Harpa will turn into Sónar central – including the underground parking lot and a scenic section of the main lobby – and will bring together a choice mix of international megastars like LFO, Squarepusher, Alva Noto and Ryuichi Sakamoto, local heroes like GusGus, Valgeir Sigurðsson, Ghostigital and Sin Fang and top it all off with some up and coming names in local electronic music. The Grapevine will be there to cover it all, too! Concert reviews will be posted the day after the concerts on www.grapevine.is. RL

Friday February 8

- Bar 11**
• 21:00 Endless Dark
Gamli Gaukurinn
• 22:00 Why Not Jack's
Gay 46
• 21:00 DJ Tooth
Harlem
• 22:00 Housekell
Kaffibarinn
• 20:00 Alfons X
Kjallarinn
• 22:00 DJ Kollster
Prikið
• 00:00 Bjossi and Egill
Volta
• 21:00 Hjaltalín, Bloodgroup, Sóley

Saturday February 9

- Faktory**
• 22:00 RVK Soundsystem (downstairs)
• 22:00 Birds by Snow (US), Útidúr, Just Another Snake Cult & Good Moon Deer (upstairs)
Gay 46
• 21:00 DJ Manny
Háskólabíó
• 21:00 Skálmöld album release concert. 4.990 ISK
Hressó
• 22:00 Spútnik
Kaffibarinn
• 20:00 Terrordisco
Kjallarinn
• 22:00 DJ Kidda Rokk

Prikið

- 20:00 Benni B Ruff
Volta
• 23:00 DJ Yamaho, Gluteus Maximus and Tim Green

Sunday February 10

- Harlem**
• 18:00 NBA sports
Kaffibarinn
• 20:00 Kristinn Pálsson
Prikið
• 20:00 Hangover Cinema - My Cousin Vinny

Monday February 11

- Harlem**
• 20:00 DJ BearLion
Kaffibarinn
• 20:00 AnDre (Extreme Chill)
Prikið
• 20:00 Monday Club

Tuesday February 12

- Harlem**
• 20:00 Thule Music Quiz
Kaffibarinn
• 20:00 Óli Dóri
Prikið
• 20:00 DJ Hús

Wednesday February 13

- Harlem**
• 22:00 Plan B
Kaffibarinn
• 20:00 Lagaffe Tales label night



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- Prikið**
 • 20:00 El Jaffe & Padrino
Volta
 • 22:00 Extreme Chill

Thursday February 14

- Bar 11**
 • 21:00 Abcination & Azoí
Faktorý
 • 22:00 Dikta
Harlem
 • 22:00 Einar Sonic
Kaffibarinn
 • 20:00 HúsDJús with GALDUR
Kjallarinn
 • 22:00 DJ Kidda Rokk
Prikið
 • 20:00 Introbeats
Volta
 • 22:00 Sónar Off-Venue

Friday February 15

- Faktorý**
 • 22:00 Benni B Ruff
Gay 46
 • 21:00 DJ Veloci
Harlem
 • 22:00 KGB
Hressó
 • 22:00 Dusty Miller & Kaleo
Kaffibarinn
 • 20:00 FKNHNSM DJs
Kjallarinn
 • 22:00 DJ Bluescreen
Prikið
 • 22:00 Sunna Ben & Danni
Volta
 • 22:00 Boogie Trouble, Jón Þór, Just Another Snake Cult

Saturday February 16

- Gay 46**
 • 21:00 DJ Bluescreen
Harlem
 • 22:00 Danni Deluxe
Hressó
 • 22:00 Penta Reunion
Kaffibarinn
 • 20:00 CasaNova
Kjallarinn
 • 22:00 DJ Kidda Rokk
Prikið
 • 20:00 DJ Árni Kacoon

Sunday February 17

- Prikið**
 • 20:00 Hangover Cinema: Space Jam
Volta
 • 22:00 Surprise Sónar DJs

Monday February 18

- Kaffibarinn**
 • 20:00 Pilsner
Prikið
 • 20:00 Drink and Draw Monday

Tuesday February 19

- Harlem**
 • 20:00 Pub quiz night
Kaffibarinn
 • 20:00 DJ Pabbi
Prikið
 • 20:00 Game night and DJ Hús

Wednesday February 20

- Harlem**
 • 20:00 DJ Katla

Thursday February 21

- Bar 11**
 • 21:00 Sisý Ey
Gamli Gaukurinn
 • 22:00 Morgan Kane, Sagtmoðigur, Axeorder & Sushi Submarine

- Harlem**
 • 20:00 Karaoke night
Hressó
 • 22:00 Audio Nation
Kaffibarinn
 • 20:00 HúsDJús with Alfons X
Kjallarinn
 • 22:00 DJ Kollster
Prikið
 • 20:00 Housekell

Friday February 22

- Bar 11**
 • 21:00 Champions Of Death
Faktorý
 • 22:00 DJ Major Disco
Gamli Gaukurinn
 • 22:00 Project Lone Wolf
Gay 46
 • 21:00 DJ Early
Harlem
 • 22:00 Pedro Pilatus
Hressó
 • 22:00 A+ & DJ Biggi
Prikið
 • 20:00 DJ Bossi og Eggi

Saturday February 23

- Faktorý**
 • 22:00 DJ Atli Kanill
Gamli Gaukurinn
 • 22:00 Chris Cornell Tribute
Gay 46
 • 21:00 DJ Dick&Dyke
Hressó
 • 22:00 Dalton
Kaffibarinn
 • 20:00 KGB
Kjallarinn
 • 22:00 DJ Milla
Prikið
 • 20:00 MC Gauti and DJ Benni B Ruff
Volta
 • 22:00 Dale Howard

Sunday February 24

- Harlem**
 • 18:00 NBA sports
Kaffibarinn
 • 20:00 Kristinn Pálsson
Prikið
 • 20:00 Hangover Cinema: Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas

Monday February 25

- Harlem**
 • 20:00 Krystal Carma
Kaffibarinn
 • 20:00 Jón Kórstjóri
Prikið
 • 20:00 DJ Hús

Tuesday February 26

- Harlem**
 • 20:00 Pub Quiz

Wednesday February 27

- Harlem**
 • 20:00 Wednesday Night Fish Fry
Prikið
 • 22:00 Maggi Legó a.k.a B4

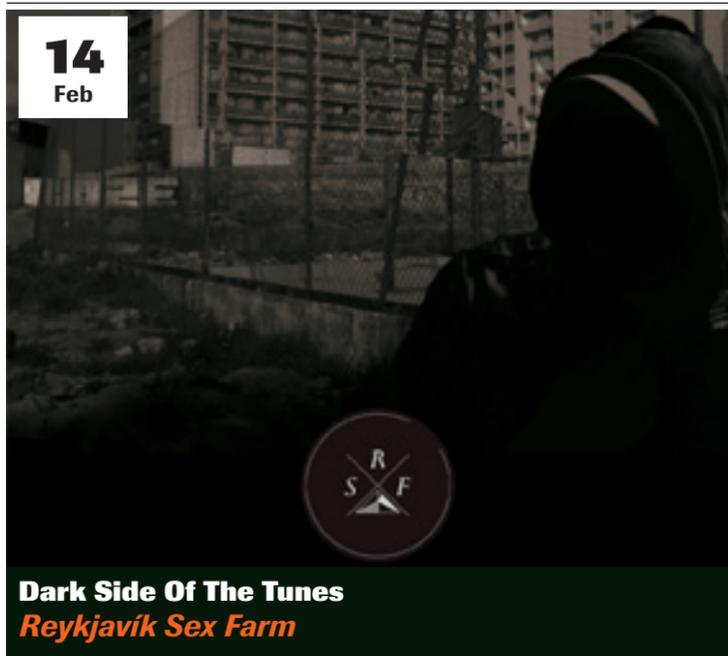
Thursday February 28

- Bar 11**
 • 21:00 Heimir Klemenz & Dusty Miller
Gamli Gaukurinn
 • 22:00 Oyama, The Heavy Experience & Tamarin Gunslinger
Harlem
 • 20:00 Hermigervill
Kaffibarinn
 • 20:00 HúsDJús with Karl Tryggvason & Gunni Ewok
Prikið
 • 20:00 Logi Pedro



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BAR

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



Dark Side Of The Tunes
Reykjavík Sex Farm

Litla Gula Hænan | 21:30

When not building prosthetic limbs at Össur or writing CD and concert reviews for print, the Grapevine's music manager Bob Cluness has been publishing his musical yearnings and ponderings on his blog, Reykjavík Sex Farm, since 2010. Also an avid mixmaker, he is taking his laments from the web to the dance floor and starting this new monthly club night that focuses on music's darker genres – UK funky, grime, hard tech, industrial and goth. The inaugural night on the eve of the Sónar fest will feature sets by Kalli (of Breakbeat.is) and Hypno, both seasoned electronic DJs. Take your brooding ass out and sulk while you shuffle. **RL**



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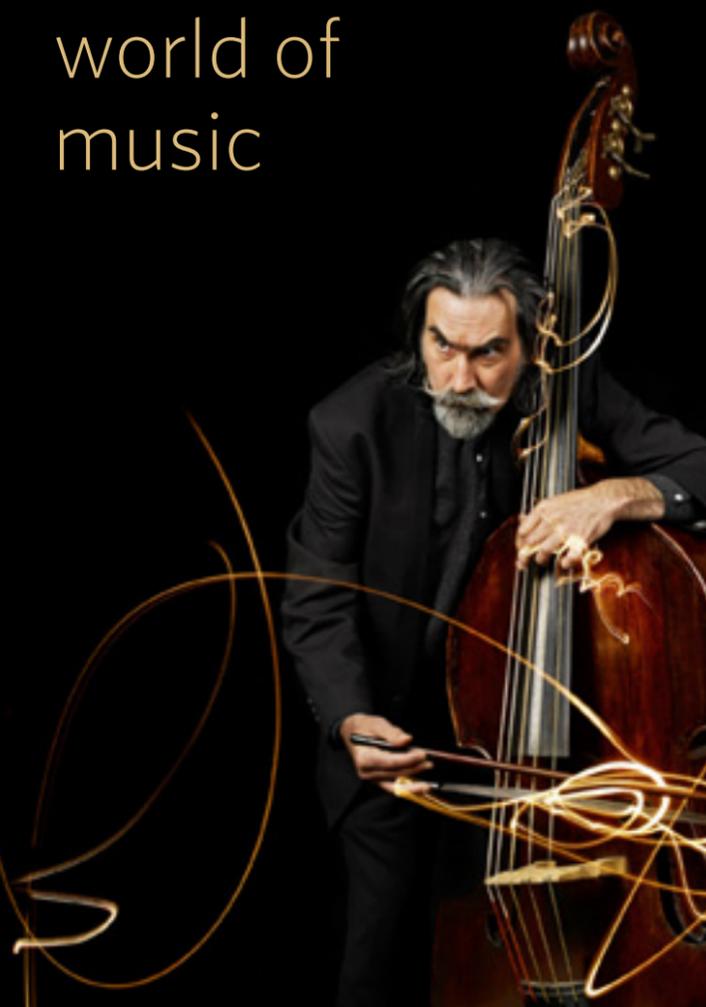
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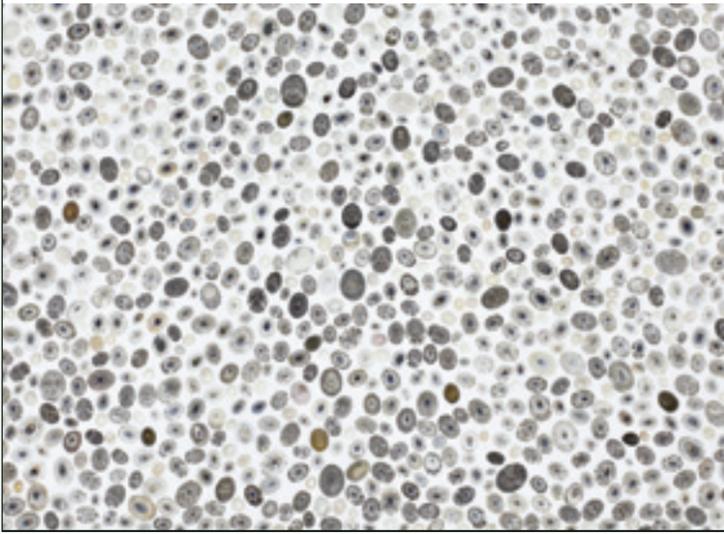
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Suðurgata 41, 101 Reykjavík.
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ART**OPENINGS AND ONGOING****February**

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**ASÍ Art Museum**

16 February

Eirún Sigurðardóttir – Gæfusmiður.

A selection of works from Icelandic artist Eirún Sigurðardóttir.
Runs until March 10

Hafnarborg

23 February

Sirra Sigrun Sigurdardottir

Sirra Sigrun Sigurdardottir's work often seems to find its footing on a thin line between art and entertainment.
Runs until March 17

Kling og Bang Gallery

23 February

Nacho Cheese - Anna Hrunn Måsdóttir & Hildigunnur Birgisdóttir

An exhibition of both designers works.
Runs until March 24

Kuntschlagler

February 2

Baldur Geir Bragason opens his exhibition with Sólveig Pálsdóttir as artist of the week.
February 23

Swiss artist Nina Weber will be the first foreign guest to exhibit at the gallery.
Runs until March 24

National Museum of Iceland

24 February

Icelandic Silverwork

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the National Museum of Iceland a new exhibition on various silver items made in Iceland throughout the centuries will be shown in the Arc Hall.
On temporary view

Reykjavík Art Gallery

15 February

Overdose & Underdose

GÓMS are two very different artists, Margeir Dire & Georg Óskar. This show is a continuation of their cooperation in a shared workspace during the years 2008-2009. Now they met again on the canvas in a visual orgy that leaves no one unsatisfied.
Runs until March 3

Reykjavík Art Museum

(Kjavalstaðir)

2 February

Zoom Out – Salon exhibition from the collection

A chance to see works of art on display from the museum's collection, some of which haven't been exhibited in many years. The exhibition will be rotated frequently, constantly changing the layout.
Runs until May 20

National Gallery of Iceland

8 February

Foreign Influences

An exhibition of work from artists from all around the world that are owned by the gallery.

**Viking Bling****Icelandic Silverware From Across The Ages****National Museum Of Iceland***Suðurgat 41 Opens February 24 1.000 ISK*

To commemorate the museum's 150th anniversary this beautiful collection of Icelandic silverwork will definitely show off Icelanders skills at crafting their bling. Spanning across the centuries, these stunningly made pieces form part of an exhibition that focuses on the methods used to make them and what processes were involved. This is one silver collection to behold, regardless of whether silver is your preferred metal of choice or not. At the same time another exhibition, Part-Time Silversmith, will be opened where guests can see the tools that silversmiths of the past used to make their objects with. Definitely a bling-bling exhibit to dazzle your eyes on. **JL**

Runs until May 5

8 February

Old Treasures

Various artworks from the gallery's collection that are often not shown due to limitations of space.
Runs until May

Nordic House

February 7

700IS Reindeerland, experimental art festival will take place this year in the Nordic House.
Runs until February 10

Poka

23 February

Ragnheiður Harpa Leifdóttir

Performance beginning at 4pm.

Ongoing**ASÍ Art Museum****Part of a Part of a Part**

In his work Bjarki Bragason often confronts issues regarding historical events.
Runs until February 10

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

The Einar Jónsson Museum

The museum contains close to 300 art works including a beautiful tree-clad garden adorned with 26 bronze casts of the artist's works is located behind the museum.
On permanent view

Hafnarborg

January 12

Gravity - Circular Motion by Björk Viggosdóttir

A new installation exhibition that encompasses multiple and diverse media.
Runs until March 17

Drawings - Ingolfur Arnarsson

Pristine delicacy is a characteristic of both Ingolfur's paintings and drawings.
Runs until February 17

i8 Gallery**Ragna Róbertsdóttir**

A collection of landscapes which are applied directly onto the wall.
Runs until March 9

Kling og Bang Gallery**REFLAR -Fragments of Life by Jóna Hlíf Halldórsdóttir and****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**

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The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

IN YOUR POCKET

WHATS INSIDE

Reykjavík Map

Happy Hour Guide

Places we like

Best of Reykjavík

Practical Info

Reykjavík Area

February 1 - 28

Keep it in your pocket

Four Weeks

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

4 FEB

BAD MOVIE NIGHT

Troll 2

9 SAT FLASHMOB Kringlan Gangam Style

Can't get enough of PSY's horse-trot dance? Head to the mall at 14:00 to join the attempt at Iceland's biggest flashmob. Stick around after for speed-dancing!

TUESDAYS MUSIC KEXJazz Enjoy live jazz and delicious snacks in this stylish hostel. Upcoming shows include Norway's Monkeybar and a tribute to Pat Metheny.

27 WED MUSIC Jarðaber Concert Series

The Reykjavík Art Museum Hafnarhús hosts this ongoing event dedicated to avant-garde music played on electro-acoustic instruments.

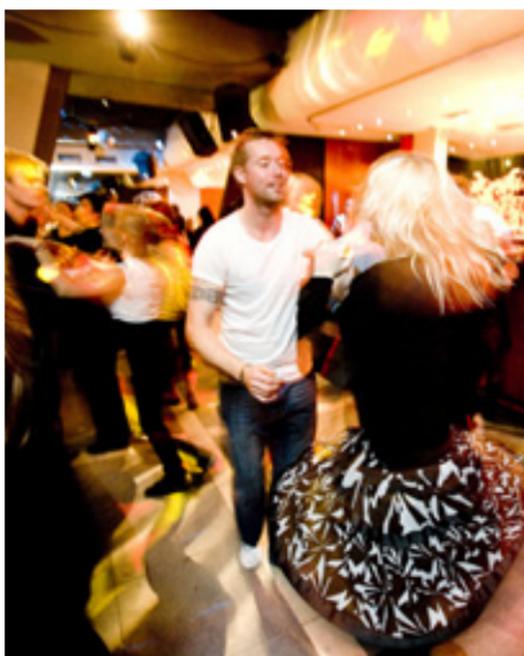
WEDNESDAYS DANCE 5Rhythms Dance

Head over to Dansverkstæðið on Skúlagata and get moving. This dynamic class is for people of all ages, sizes and shapes. No registration required.

THURSDAYS

DANCE

Salsa Nights



Let Your Latin Side Go Local!

Free entrance, specials on mojitos

Thorvaldsen, Austurstræti 8

☺ 21 :00

In the cold and dark of the Icelandic winter, a little slice of Latin America will definitely help defrost your joints and improve your movement on the dance floor. All are welcome at this fun and carefree evening, whether you've never danced in your life or you can whirl around the dance floor like you're fresh out of a Rio ballroom. Teachers are on hand to give tips and pointers and after the classes end the music doesn't stop. For those not feeling so much of a twinkletoes on the evening then you can sit and watch or just enjoy the music at the bar. An exciting way of getting to know new people as well as a bit of fun, this is the perfect time to spice up an otherwise dark and cold winter night, Latino style. Olé! **JL**

Den Danske Kro



HAPPY HOUR 16-19 EVERY DAY
LIVE MUSIC EVERY NIGHT



Ingólfsstræti 3 - 101 Reykjavík - 552-0070



"You Don't Piss On Hospitality!"

Free

Harlem, Tryggvagata 22

☺ 20:00

There are three things you need to know about Troll 2: it has nothing to do with a previously made movie named 'Troll', there aren't any trolls in the movie and no one ever says the word 'troll'. In fact, no one is quite sure what the fuck is going on in it! The child actor from the movie later made a documentary about it called 'Best Worst Movie' to try and figure out what they were even doing and, more importantly, why are people loving this movie now! It is so wonderfully bad. It is piss your pants funny. Just don't do it on the table. **RL**

31.26 JAN - MAR

PHOTOGRAPHY

Double Exposure



Paula Prats - Found / Dot

Free

Reykjavík Museum of Photography

☺ 10:00

Between two exhibits, there are many ways to look. Paula Prats creates as many as possible, with games of broken telephone between the past and present in her diptych series 'Found', and a physically confounding chain of images with 'Dot'. Embrace the ordinary, look for the emptiness, and follow what may seem useless, and discover that the experience may elevate your understanding of the images you see. **RL**

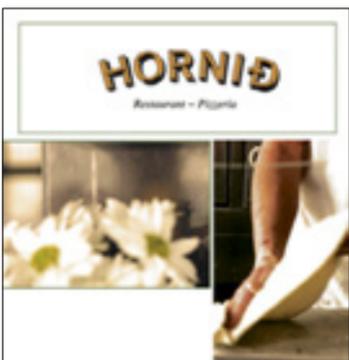


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Fridays 12-18, Weekends 13-17
www.photomuseum.is



HORNID
Restoran + Pizzeria

Hornid opened in 1979 was the first restaurant of its kind in Iceland, a restaurant with a true Italian atmosphere. Hornid 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.
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C

MAP

Places We Like

Food

1 Icelandic Fish & Chips

Tryggvagata 8

Not your average fish 'n' chips joint, this healthy restaurant uses only organic vegetables and quality fish products to serve their fancy take on a fast-food classic. The spiced 'Skyronnaise' sauce is a special treat, and their clean, casual location by the harbour is full of charm.

2 Gandhi

Pósthússtræti 17

If you think Iceland has nothing to offer in the way of Indian food, then you'll be pleasantly surprised to know about Gandhi, Reykjavík's premiere South Indian restaurant. The menu is made up of different masala, tikka and tandoori dishes compose and also various seafood curries.

3 Búllan

Geirsgata 1

Considered by some to be the best "real" hamburger in Reykjavík, "Búllan" does serve some mysteriously delicious burgers, guaranteed to take the edge off any hangover. This is a very cool little hamburger bar, where you can sit right up close to the counter and savour the amazing smells as these top class burgers are cooked away.

4 Munnharpan

Austurbakki 2

Danish cuisine with the inherent French influence and a little more French sprinkled on top. Munnharpan is owned by the same people that run Jómfrúin, a long-standing favourite in the local scene. The meals are mostly suitable with plenty of light courses offering a selection of smørrebrød (Danish open faced sandwiches) mixed with classic French courses.

5 Forréttabarin

Nýlendugata 14

This hip restaurant offers delicious starter-sized dishes at very reasonable prices. Traditional Icelandic courses such as the minke whale and the horse are highly recommended. The open kitchen also allows excellent views of the chefs as they prepare the dishes in front of you, adding to the cool factor of the place.

Drinking

6 Micro Bar

Austurstræti 6

One of Reykjavík's newest bars also boasts one of the city's largest selection of draught beers. It carries eight different kinds of beer on tap, as well as bottled beer from microbreweries in Iceland, Denmark, Belgium and Scotland. No doubt the biggest beer selection in town.

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

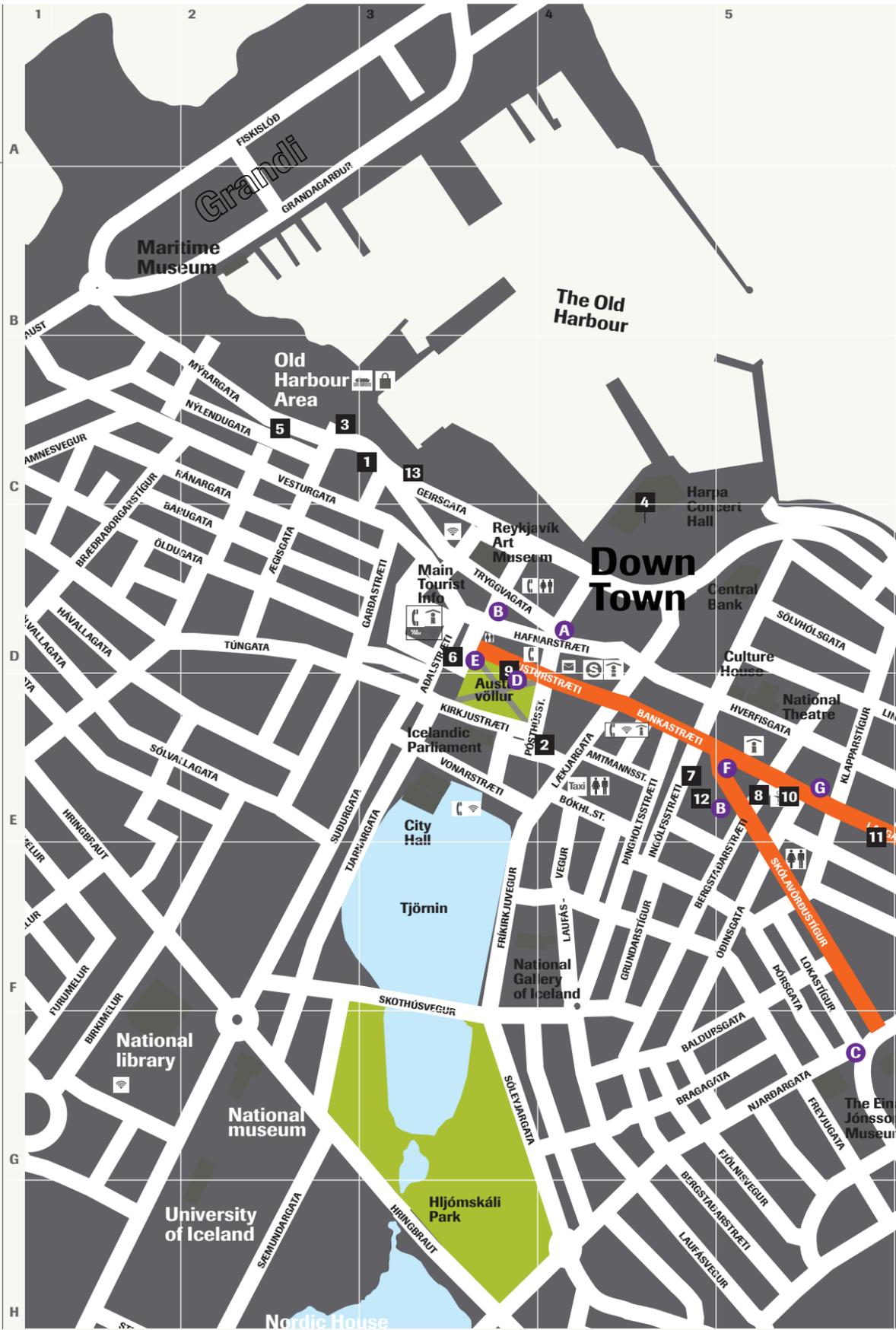
Tourist information

Arctic Adventures, Laugavegur 11,

tel: 562 7000

City Centre, Aðalstræti 2, tel: 590 1550

Iceland Excursions - Grayline Iceland,



7 Den Danske Kro

Ingólfsstræti 3

This Danish-themed bar is located on Ingólfsstræti, just off Laugavegur. They serve up Danish favourites, such as open faced smørrebrød sandwiches, Tuborg beer and Akavit schnapps. Their 'Happy Hour', every day between 16-19, is a great source of fun. How to ask for a large beer in Danish: "Hej, jeg vil gerne ha' en stor øl, tak".

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 Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1

A popular café on weekdays, on weekends Kaffibarinn turns into a ticket for a wild night out, as the space fills up with the late-night souls oozing energy in every corner. With DJs playing and the occasional rock band, the party usually lasts until early morning, yet often manages to leave you begging for more.

Public transport

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

Opening Hours

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

Shops: Mon.-Fri. 10:00-18:00, Sat.

9 The English Pub

Austurstræti 12

True to its name, the English Pub offers many different kinds of lager on tap and a whiff of that genuine UK feel. Try the famous "wheel of fortune" where one can win up to a metre of beer with a single spin. In addition the pub has several large screens which can show different types of sports at once, providing something for everyone.

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.



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D

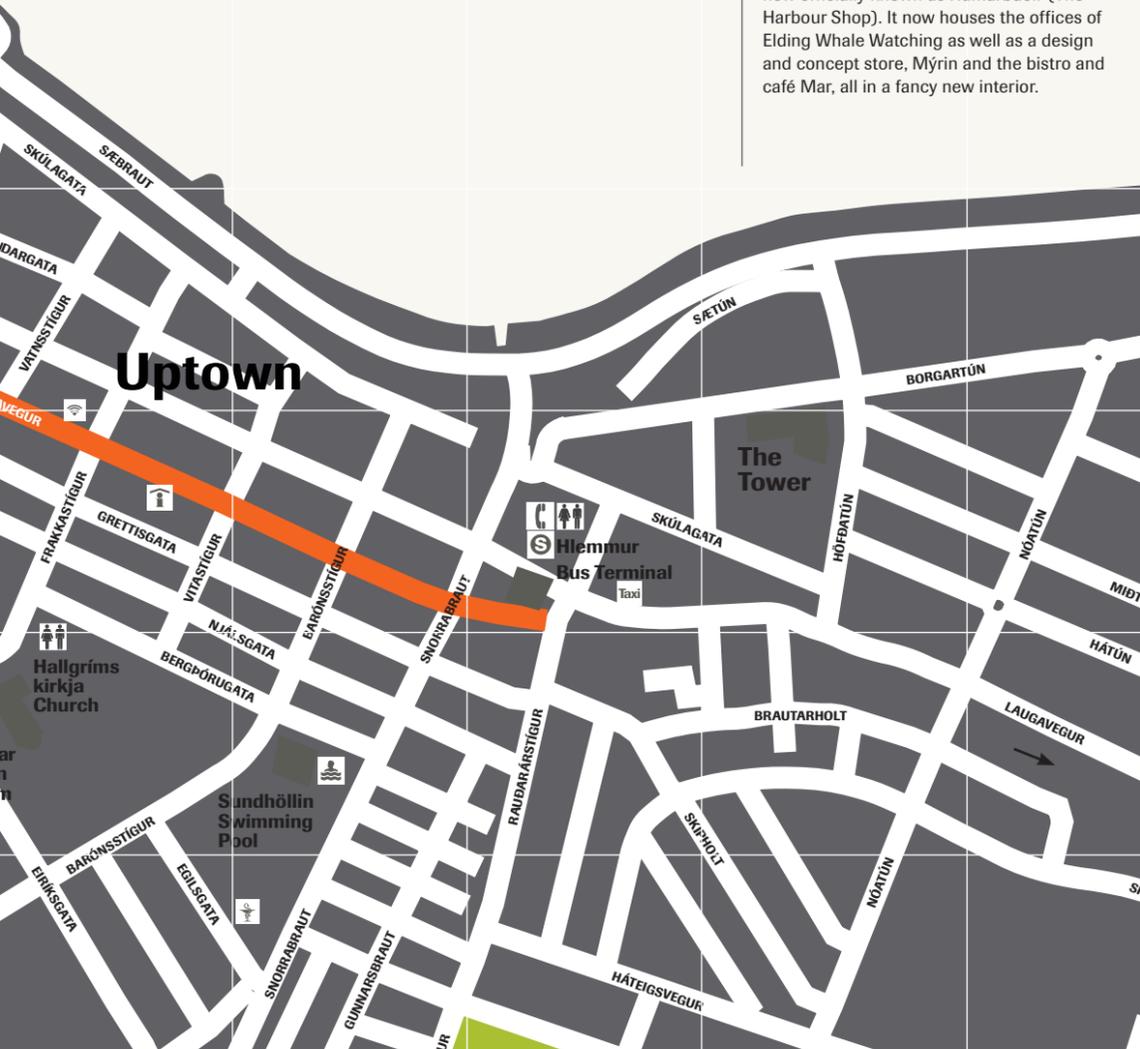
New In Town



13 Hafnarbúðir

Geirsgata 9

After the unsuccessful attempts at a bird museum, a Portuguese restaurant and a tourism booking office, the building that guards the gate to the old harbour is now officially known as Hafnarbúðir (The Harbour Shop). It now houses the offices of Elding Whale Watching as well as a design and concept store, Mýrin and the bistro and café Mar, all in a fancy new interior.



Venue Finder Music & Entertainment

- Amsterdam** Hafnarstræti 5 | D3
- Austur** Austurstræti 7 | E3
- B5** Bankastræti 5 | E4
- Babalú** Skólavörðustígur 22 | F5
- Bar 11** Hverfisgötu 18 | E5
- Bjarni Fel** Austurstræti 20 | E4
- Boston** Laugavegur 28b | F6
- Café Paris** Austurstræti 14 | E4
- Celtic Cross** Hverfisgata 26 | E5
- Den Danske Kro** Ingólfsstræti 3 | E4
- Dillon** Laugavegur 30 | F6
- Dolly** Hafnarstræti 4 | D3
- Dubliner** Hafnarstræti 1-3 | D3
- Esja** Austurstræti 16 | E4
- English Pub** Austurstræti 12 | E3
- Faktory** Smiðjustígur 6 | E5
- Gamli Gaukurinn** Tryggvagata 22 | D3
- Gay 46** Hverfisgata 46 | E5
- Ölsmiðjan** Lækjargata 10 | E4
- Hressó** Austurstræti 20 | E4
- Mánabar** Hverfisgata 20 | E5
- Kaffi Zimsen** Hafnarstræti 18 | D4
- Kaffibarinn** Bergstraðastræti 1 | E5
- Nýlenduöruverzlun Hemma & Valda** Laugavegur 21 | E5
- Næsti Bar** Ingólfsstræti 1A | E5
- Östofan** Vegamótastígur | E5
- Prikið** Bankastræti | E4
- Rósenberg** Klapparstígur 25 | E5
- Sólon** Bankastræti 7A | E4
- Thorvaldsen** Austurstræti 8 | D3
- Vegamót** Vegamótastígur 4 | E6

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Museums & Galleries

- ART67** Laugavegur 67 | F7
Mon - Fri 12 - 18 / Sat 12 - 16
- ASÍ Art Museum** Freyugata 41 | H6
Tue-Sun 13-17
www.listasafnasi.is
- Árbæjarsafn** Kistuhylur 4
- The Culture House** Hverfisgata 15 | E5
Open daily 11-17
www.thjodmenning.is
- The Einar Jónsson Museum** Eiríksgrata | G6
Tue-Sun 14-17
www.skulptur.is
- Galleri Ágúst** Baldursgata 12 | G5
Wed-Sat 12-17
www.galleriagust.is
- Galleri Fold** Rauðarástígur 14-16 | G8
Mon-Fri 10-18 / Sat 11-16 / Sun 14-16
www.myndlist.is
- Kaolin** Skólavörðustígur 22 | E5
www.kaolingallery.com
- Galleri Kling & Bang** Hverfisgata 42 | E6
Thurs-Sun from 14-18
this.is/klingogbang/
- Ásgrímur Jónsson Museum** Bergstaðastræti 74
Mon-Fri through Sept. 1
- Gerðuberg Cultural Centre** Gerðuberg 3-5
Mon-Thu 11-17 / Wed 11-21 / Thu-Fri 11-17 / Sat-Sun 13-16
www.gerduberg.is
- Hitt Húsið** Gallery Tukt Pósthússtræti 3-5 | E4
www.hitthusid.is
- i8 Gallery** Tryggvagata 16 | D3
Tue-Fri 11-17 / Sat 13-17 and by appointment
www.i8.is
- Living Art Museum** Skúlagata 28 | E7
Wed, Fri-Sun 13-17 / Thu 13-22
www.nylo.is
- Hafnarborg** Strandgata 34, Hafnarfjörður
www.hafnarborg.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
natmus.is
- The Nordic House** Sturlugata 5
Tue-Sun 12-17
www.nordice.is
- Restaurant Reykjavík** Vesturgata 2 | D3
www.restaurantreykjavik.is
- Reykjavík 871+/-2** Aðalstræti 17 | E3
Open daily 10-17
- Reykjavík Art Gallery** Skúlagata 30 | E7
Tuesday through Sunday 14-18
- Reykjavík Art Museum composed of Hafnarhús** Tryggvagata 17 | D3
Open 10-17
Thursday 10 - 20
- Kjarvalsstaðir** Flókagata 24
Open 10 - 17
- Ásmundarsafn** Sigtún
Open 10 - 17
More info on www.listasafnreykjavikur.is
- Reykjavík City Library** Tryggvagata 15 | D3
Mon 10-21, Tue-Thu 10-19, Fri 11-19, Sat and Sun 13-17
www.sim.is/Index/Islen-ska/Artotek
- Reykjavík Maritime Museum** Grandagarður 8 | B2
www.maritimemuseum.is
- Reykjavík Museum of Photography** Tryggvagata 16 | D3
Weekdays 12-19 / Sat-Sun 13-17 - www.ljosmyndasafnreykjavikur.is
- Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum** Laugarnestangi 70
www.iso.is
- SÍM** Hafnarstræti 16 | D4
Mon-Fri 10-16
- Skörin** Aðalstræti 10
- Spark Design Space** Klapparstígur 33 | E5
www.sparkdesignspace.com

Grapevine Grassroots performance night

young and upcoming artists of the future open their hearts @ Hemmi & Valdi Friday > 22.Feb > 21:30

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

Shopping

10 Red Cross Shop

Laugavegur 12B

Our favourite place to find bargains. They've got a nice selection of Icelandic sweaters, and sell all types of clothes for both men and women. Pretty nice if you're low on cash, especially considering the outrageous prices you can pay elsewhere in this darn city.

11 Spúútnik

Laugavegur 28B

Vintage fashion is definitely the "in" thing in Iceland and if retro and vintage clothing is your thing, then you have to have a good snoop through some amazing second-hand bargains. In particular if you're looking for an Icelandic sweater but don't want to spend a fortune then this may be your place as there are plenty in all sizes and colour patterns.

12 Rauðhetta og úlfurinn

Skólavörðustígur 8

Rauðhetta og úlfurinn are an enduring favourite when it comes to supplying the good people of Reykjavík with their trendy haircuts—which is odd because trends keep changing and fashion is notoriously fickle. "I can always count on excellent service at Rauðhetta og úlfurinn, they make me look good every time," one reader noted.

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, Arngrímsgata 3

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

Swimming Pools

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

Public Toilets

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

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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 culled from BEST OF REYKJAVÍK 2012, which you can find in full at www.grapevine.is



BEST SEAFOOD: FÍSKIFÉLAGIÐ



We think Fiskifélagið, or The Fish Company, is serving the best seafood these days. "They are consistently good," our food critic argued. "The food is exceptionally good, the dimly lit basement is cosy and romantic, and the service is excellent." We recommend the prix fixe menu, though be aware that you will probably have trouble walking out of the restaurant. It's a lot of food. And really good food. Really, this could have easily made "Best fancy meal" or "Best goddamn restaurant."

Located at Vesturgata 2a



BEST PLACE TO WATCH SPORTS OVER BEER: ÚRILLA GORILLAN

Hvíta Perlan won this category the last two years in a row. Hvíta Perlan is now closed, but Úrilla Górrillan has opened in its place and in many ways it's just like Hvíta Perlan so it's not surprising that it takes best place to watch sports over a beer this year. It's a restaurant and sports bar with constant streaming of live sports. People who like to watch sports over a beer tell us that it's simply the best. "They have a huge screen, and they have lots of them, and it's really comfortable, and you get a seat with your very own personal tap at your table, so you don't have to get up to order!" someone who doesn't even watch sports excitedly told us.



Located at Austurstræti 12



BEST PLACE TO STOCK UP ON LOCAL DESIGN: KRAUM



Representing over 200 local designers and artists, Kraum offers an expertly curated, collection of the best things currently being envisioned and crafted by locals. The wide variety of items on offer ("their collection is GARGANTUAN") can be hard to navigate, but the expert staff ensures no one leaves without finding what they need.

Located at Aðalstræti 10

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 for 450 ISK and wine for 645 ISK.
- Austur**
Every day from 20:00 to 00:00. Beer 495 ISK and wine 550 ISK.
- B5**
Every day from 16:00 to 22:00,
Beer 550 ISK, cider 750 ISK, wine 550 ISK.
- Bjarni Fel**
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00,
2 for 1 beer for 890 ISK.
- Boston**
Every day from 16:00 to 22:00,
Beer 500 ISK and wine 500 ISK.
- Café Haiti**
Everyday from 16:00 to 22:00.
Beer for 500 ISK and wine for 650 ISK.
- Celtic Cross**
Every day from 17:00 to 20:00,
Beer for 500 ISK.
- Den Danske Kro**
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00,
2 for 1 beer for 900 ISK and wine for 900 ISK.
- Dillon**
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00,
2 for 1 beer for 850 ISK.
- Dolly**
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00.
Beer for 500 ISK and wine 500 ISK.
- Dubliner**
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00,
2 for 1 beer for 1000 ISK.
- Faktorý**
Every day from 17:00 to 20:00.
Beer for 550 ISK.
- Fálkinn Bistro**
Everyday except Sunday from 17:00 to 22:00.
Beer for 500 ISK and wine for 500 ISK.
- Harlem**
Every day from 17:00 to 22:00.
Beer for 550 ISK, wine for 700 ISK.



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.

- Hemmi og Valdi**
Every day from 12:00 to 20:00
Draft beer for 550 ISK and wine for 700 ISK.
- Hilton Hotel Bar**
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00,
Beer for 500 ISK and wine for 650 ISK.
- Hótel 1919**
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00,
2 for 1 beer for 1000 ISK, wine for 1190 ISK.
- Hótel Holt Gallery Bar**
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00,
beer for 475 ISK, wine for 695 ISK,
champagne and cocktails half off.

- Hótel Plaza Bar**
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00,
Beer for 500 ISK.
- Kaldibar**
Every day from 17:00 - 20:00
2 beer or 2 glasses of wine for 900 ISK. 2 for 1 on all drinks.
- Kaffi Zimsen**
Sun - Thurs from 17:00 to 22:00,
2 for 1 beer for 800 ISK.
- Kolabrautin**
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00,
Beer for 500 ISK, wine for 700 ISK.
- Lebowski Bar**
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00,
2 for 1 beer for 900 ISK and wine for 1000 ISK.
- Micro Bar**
Every day except Sat from 16:00 to 19:00,
500 ISK for a draft beer.
- Miðgarður Bistro bar**
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00.
50 percent off all drinks.
- No-Name Bar**
Every day from 17:00 - 19:00.
Beer and wine for 500 ISK.
- Obladi Oblada**
Every day from 12:00 to 20:00
Beer 600 ISK
- Prikið**
Weekdays from 16:00 to 20:00,
2 for 1 beer for 690 ISK.
- Reykjavík Backpackers**
Every day from 17:00 - 20:00.
2 for 1 beer for 750 ISK
- Roadhouse**
Friday & Saturday 22:00 - 23:00.
2 for 1 beer for 790 ISK and wine for 790 ISK.
- Slippbarinn**
Every day from 16:00 to 18:00,
50% off beer and wine.
- Stofan**
Every day from 17:00 to 20:00,
Beer for 500 ISK and wine for 600 ISK.
- Tapashouse**
Everyday from 16:00 to 19:00.
Beer for 950 ISK and wine for 1150 ISK.
- Uno**
Everyday from 17:00 to 19:00.
50% off all drinks.
- Uppsafir - Bar & Café**
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00.
2 for 1 beer for 900 ISK.
- Pinghóltsbar**
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00.
Beer for 500 ISK

ART ONGOING

– continued –

Guðjón Tryggvason

The installation includes text pieces, sound and kinetic works that form a narrative in to the formation of a friendship.

Runs until February 10 and is open on Thursdays to Sundays from 14-18

Knitting Iceland

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

On permanent view

Latin Dance Studio, Faxafen 12

Guided Practica

Argentine tango, 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 – Hönnunarsafn Íslands

Gísli B. - Five Decades of Graphic Design

This survey of Gísli B. Björnsson's career features, among other things, work from his student days, magazines, book cover design and layout.

Runs until March

Nordic House

Tehuana

Photographic exhibition by Arturo Betancourt picturing characteristic women in colourful folkloric dresses. Accompanied by a showing of four Mexican films.

Runs until February 17

Borderlines

Exhibition by 12 photographers living in four different countries. The theme is "Borders".

Runs until February 17

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

The Icelandic Phalological Museum

The museum contains a collection of more than two hundred and fifteen penises and penile parts belonging to almost all the land and sea mammals that can be found in Iceland.

On permanent view

Reykjavík Art Museum - Ásmundarsafn

The Fire Within

A collection of sculptures by Ásmundur Sveinsson housed in his former home.

Runs until April 14, 2013

Reykjavík Art Museum- Hafnarhús

Erró - Graphic Art, 1949-2009

For the first time the general public are able to view Erró's graphic art spanning half a century.

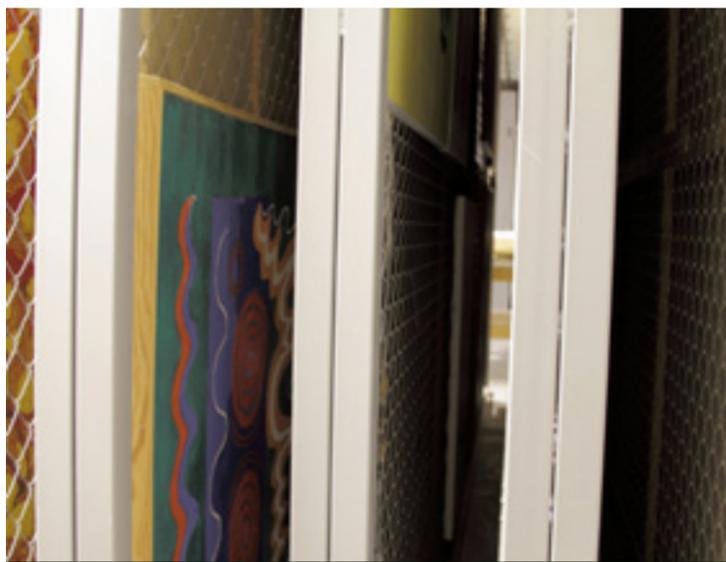
Runs until August 25, 2013

Spill - Ívar Valgarðsson

Spill comprises three murals of drips of paint which have trickled onto the floor. Ívar focuses a digital camera on the paint drops and projects the images on to the walls in real time.

Runs until April 14

Robert Smithson: The Invention of Landscape - Broken Circle/



Zoom In On Zoom Out Zoom Out Salon Exhibition

Reykjavík Art Museum (Kjarvalsstaðir)

February 2 -April 28 | 1.000 ISK

A wide section of the museum's vast collection of art is available for viewing in this new exhibition that sees many works of art being on display for the first time in many years. The concept of the exhibition is an ever-rotating platform of artwork. Indeed the exhibition will be rotated during opening hours, making your visit a unique one from that of someone who may be visiting on another day. The collection, consisting of Icelandic and international pieces, gives a cross-spectrum perspective of the pieces held by the museum, which offer a fascinating insight in to the works housed at the gallery. **JL**



Find all art listings online
listings.grapevine.is

Spiral Hill

This exhibition focuses on his only Earthwork in Europe, Broken Circle/ Spiral Hill, created in Emmen, Holland in 1971.

Runs until April 14

Reykjavík Art Museum- Kjarvalsstaðir

Kjarval - Key Works

Reykjavík Art Museum draws on its extensive collection of works by Jóhannes S. Kjarval for ongoing exhibitions at Kjarvalsstaðir. The current exhibition offers a unique and powerful retrospective from Iceland's most beloved painter.

Permanent exhibition

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

Focus on the Sea

Focus holds regular photographic exhibitions, this time the theme is the sea. Focus was founded in 1999 and membership is open to all amateur photographers. The main aim of the association is to provide a platform for its members to pursue photography, hold competitions and give talks about the topic.

On temporary view

The wood carvings of Lúkas Kárason

Lúkas Kárason uses driftwood from his childhood home, Strandir, in all his carvings. He manages to extract magnificent creatures from his material. Lúkas was born in 1931 and grew up in Strandir, North-West Iceland.

On temporary view

Reykjavík Museum of Photography

Guðmundur Ingólfsson Kvósin - 1986 & 2011.

Runs until May 12



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www.theviking.is

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www.gerdarsafn.is

Helgi Þorgils Friðjónsson
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Tel. +354 512 1525
Open 12-17
Closed on Mondays
www.honnunarsafn.is

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Strandgata 34, Hafnarfjörður
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Open 12-17
Thursdays 12-21
Closed on Tuesdays
www.hafnarborg.is

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F FOOD D

FOR YOUR MIND, BODY AND SOUL

by **Ragnar Egilsson**



Cougar Town

I did not go into Gló with an open mind. Gló is a health food cafeteria with a focus on vegetarian, raw food and vegan options and those aren't my kind of option. I'm the kind of guy who likes to rely on intermediaries to negotiate the transfer of vegetables from the field and to my mouth—delicious, savoury, marbled, intermediaries. I guess you could call me a vegetarian-by-proxy.

Gló

Engjateigur 17-19
(@Listhúsið Laugardal)
Tel: (+354) 553 1111
www.glo.is
glo@glo.is
Mon-Fri: 11:00 – 9pm
Sat: 11am – 5pm

What we think

In the words of my dining partner:
"This was fuck good."

Flavour:

Raw food, Mediterranean,
Japanese, vegetarian, vegan

Ambiance:

Oestrogen-suffused cafeteria

Service:

Pick up and pay at the counter.
Helpful staff.

Price for 2 (with drinks):
4-5,000 ISK



My views on antioxidants are such that I actually did a little happy dance when I read the results of a recent study in Scientific American that seriously questioned the role of antioxidants in prolonging life ("Is the Free-Radical Theory of Aging Dead?") and my views on the raw food philosophy are best summed up by googling "Pyradyne vitamid."

So we go in there, two lead-spined, taut-buttocked, glistening young bucks that start each day with a zombie's share of raw hippie entrails and wash it down with unicorn blood and are greeted by a room full of blissful-looking women and beakers of green mystery juice. There is a yoga centre next door. They were playing easy listening. Everyone was smiling. Everyone was smiling at us. And there were literally three other males in

there, two of them being physically restrained by their girlfriends and one that was wearing a flowing skirt and a wide-brimmed green hat (I kid you not).

I must say, though, that a single man would do a lot better here than at Kaffibarinn at three in the morning. You would be gliding from: "A messy divorce, huh?" to afterglow granola bars in the time it takes to cook a raw food salad.

Ok. So we've established my feeble, chauvinist mind and firm stance (and loose bowel movements) against dietary fibre. Here's where it gets a little hairy...the food is freaking awesome. I want to fight it with every fibre of my being (of which, we have established, there is very little) but I have to admit that Gló is serving some very, very tasty food indeed.

I had the pesto chicken with tabouleh and kelp noodles. Chicken came as a full portion and a half portion. I chose the half portion (1890 ISK) and it left me comfortably full despite not having eaten the whole day. Despite the raw food policy they decided to serve the chicken thighs cooked (where's the courage of conviction!?). The pesto was thinner and nuttier than I'm used to, but really pleasant.

The kelp noodles were these opalescent strands that resembled sauerkraut and had been tossed with courgette and lemongrass. The "tabouleh" was mostly made up of barley and parsley. Both were far more delicious than they had any right to be. I washed this down with a beer and a sparkling rhubarb drink.

My rugged longshoreman of a friend had the raw food pizza, kelp noodles and mixed roasted veggies (1790 ISK). This world of raw food is alien territory to me. I'm a decent home cook but I'm fumbling in the dark trying to guess how they make these things. From what I could gather, the "pizza crust" is made from sundried tomatoes and crushed seeds that have been dehydrated into a kind

of jerky. This was then topped with cashew cheese (don't ask me), rucicola and garlic. This may sound nightmarish to many of you, but let me assure you that this was entirely edible—not as good as the chicken, but far better than I would ever have expected. He enjoyed this with a sparkling ginger drink and a beer but at this point we would both have been ready to give the green mystery juice a try had they not run out of it.

For dessert, I had the raw cheese-cake topped with a tiny organic raspberry. At 699 ISK, I thought it was quite steep for such a thin slice, but I still have to admit that it was just as bafflingly fantastic as the rest of the meal.

Friendly friend had the "hjonabandssæla," which is an Icelandic take on a rhubarb crumble. Tiny, with a tiny raspberry, and awesome (the rule with food seems to be "the tinier, the better." At least that's been my experience with oysters, lobsters, apples and blueberries).

If we were able to find this much to like, with all our preconceived notions, then there should be something for everyone here. These are easily among the best vegetarian dishes I've had in Iceland and certainly the best of the "health food" offerings I've tried.

RAGNAR EGILSSON
ALISA KALYANOVA



The Bruce Wayne Of Basement Bistros

The coffee house 10 Dropar is leading a double life. By day it is a mild-mannered, coffee house, but by night it turns into a louche French bistro of clandestine rendezvous and impromptu Bande à Part dance numbers (probably).

Le Chateaux des Dix Gouttes

Le Chateaux des Dix Gouttes
Laugavegur 27, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: +354 892 3574
<https://www.facebook.com/LeChateauxDesDixGouttes/>
Mon- Sun: 20:00- 01:00

What we think

A modest selection of light bistro dishes and wine

Flavour:

Rustic French

Ambiance:

Cosy, romantic, quiet

Service:

Fast and domestic

Price for 2 (with drinks):

5-6,000 ISK



In Iceland, the expression “tíu dropar” is a cute way of saying that you’d like a small cup if someone offers you coffee.

And it doesn’t get much cuter than the café Tíu Dropar. It’s easily one of the cosiest and most family-friendly places in Reykjavík and a great spot for waffles and hot cocoa.

Le Chateau des Dix Gouttes has the same cosy atmosphere but the emphasis is on charcuterie, cheese, light courses and wine (but of course!).

They have two types of platters. The small one with a small portion of saucisson and one type of cheese (500 ISK) and a larger one with four types of cheese, olives and a larger portion of saucisson (2000 ISK). We ordered the larger one and although it doesn’t quite have the Slippbarinn platter beat it’s still a perfectly nice plate of salty things to go with your wine. The goat cheese and blue goat cheese were killer, the olives were tasty, but the prosciutto was bland and boring.

They also offer sandwiches (ranging from 1190 to 1490 ISK), served on thick slices of actual real bread—not the greasy sauce-and-cheese massacres we’re used to in Iceland, but definitely juicy enough.

The soup is a clear lamb soup in a very French style—light and cooked just right. I’d definitely recommend it. And, at 1390 ISK plus coffee and bread, it’s

not a bad deal.

We started with Cuvée Bouchard Aine Rouge, a mild and inoffensively fruity bistro wine, which was the weekly special when we visited in December. Then later we turned to baser conversation fuel and started swilling some cheap Montes Cabernet. I must also mention that they offered us a glass of some truly fantastic glögg (mulled wine) although that was just for the holiday season.

It’s a pretty modest selection of food but it’s a good place to hang out on a Thursday night if you’re in the mood for something a little less hectic.

And it’s an interesting concept to divide the business into two different shifts like this. I would love to see a more extreme metamorphosis; maybe a place with secret levers that rotate the walls theatrically and reveal a whole new design. Or maybe have contrasting uses for the space—a pet shop by day and an abattoir by night? A kindergarden by day—an opium den by night (I’ve seen them during nap time and it’s not such a stretch).

✍ RAGNAR EGILSSON

📷 ALÍSA KALYANOVA



SNAPS

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7-10 FEBRUARY 2013

AMAZING DARKNESS

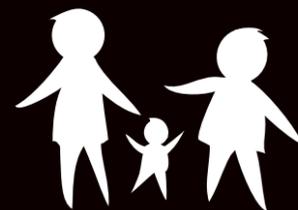
REYKJAVÍK WINTER LIGHTS FESTIVAL



INTERNATIONAL CHILDRENS DAY

MUSEUM NIGHT

POOL NIGHT



LOVE GAMES OTHER EVENTS

VETRARHATID.IS



Reykjavíkurborg

orkusalan



Thursday, February 7

19:30-20:00

Opening Ceremony

Mayor Jón Gnarr officially opens the Reykjavík Winter Festival and unveils the opening piece, "PIXEL CLOUD" by architect Marcos Zotes, which transforms Austurvöllur into a magnificent display of lights, colour and motion, to the music of Eddi Egilsson.

Austurvöllur

19:30 – 20:30

Helm of Disguise

French artist combines the organic and the inorganic in Icelandic nature.

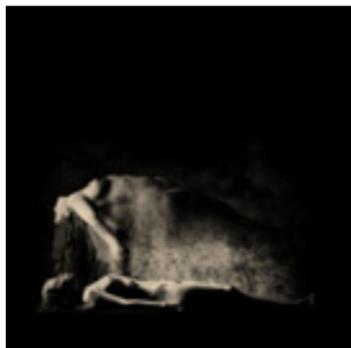
Tryggvagata 8, 2. Floor

20:30 – 23:30

In Blood

Reykjavík Literary City and Rúnatýr offer a chilling programme focused on Vampires and other creatures of the dark. Photo exhibition by Heldriver and a screening of the film Nosferatu at 22:00

Cinema Paradise, Hverfisgata 54



20:15 – 20:45

Hringanóri Duet

Original songs and arrangements of old folk songs for song, guitar and cello.

Dómkirkjan, Lækjargata 14a

20:30 – 21:20

By Reykjavík Pond – Icelandic classics

Soprano Gerður Bolladóttir and guitarist Rúnar Þórisson play a selection of classic Icelandic songs.

Fríkirkjan Church, Fríkirkjuveg

20:15 – 21:00

Thursday Foreplay: Hide Your Kids

Live Rock and Roll. Free CDs

HITT HÚSIÐ, Entry from Austurstræti



21:00 – 22:00

Famina Futura - Live

Folk/Country explosion.

Hressingarskálinn, Austurstræti 20

22:00 – 22:40

Una Stefáns

Iceland's answer to Adele.

Hressingarskálinn, Austurstræti 20

20:30 – 22:00

Take me to the world

Soprano Hallveig Rúnarsdóttir and pianist Hrónn Þráinsdóttir explore the world of musicals and cabarets.

Iðón, Vonarstræti 3

20:15 – 21:00

Gímalðin and friends

A text-based rock group playing the Icelandic blues.

Íslenski Barinn, by Austurvöllur

20:30 – 21:00

Tarmo

Talented Finnish musician Tarmo plays an East meets West, electro and folk mix.

Café Hafti Geirsgata 7b

20:30 – 21:30

Eyes in the dark

Jóhanna Þórhalls' Jazz quintet plays and Óttar Guðmundsson shares ghost stories.

Restaurant Reykjavík, Vesturgata 2

21:00 – 24:00

In a Dark Room – Sleep Concert

At the end of the day, it is good to lie down in the dark and empty your mind.

Reykjavík City Hall.

20:30 – 21:30/22:00

The Return of Darkness

Guitarist Jón Þór Sigurleifsson plays original songs on an acoustic guitar, as well as new arrangement of heavy metal songs for an acoustic guitar.

Stofan, Aðalstræti 7

20:00 – 00:30

A Night of Salsa

A free lesson for beginners from 20:00. From 21-22, experienced Salsa dancers will dance with less experienced dancers

Thorvaldsen by Austurvöllur

Friday, February 8

16:00 – 20:00

A Visit to Bessastaðir

A guided tour of the Presidential residence and the church of Bessastaðir.

Bessastaðir

14:00 – 18:00 & 19:00 – 23:00

Helm of Disguise

French artist combines the organic and the inorganic in Icelandic nature.

Alliance française, Tryggvagata 8, second floor

17:00 – 17:20, 17:30 – 17:50, 18:00 – 18:20

Witching stories

Stories of witches in the children's section of the library.

Reykjavík City Library, Tryggvagata 15

18:00 & 23:40

Photography exhibition

Selected photos.

Reykjavík City Library, Tryggvagata 15

17:00 – 22:30

Flashlight in the Dark

The museum's 2nd floor will dark from 17:00. Guests will receive a flash light to find their way.

Reykjavík City Library, Tryggvagata 15

15:00 – 19:00

Experiments in Snow

Adventurous times in Mt. Bláfjöll where participants learn to make a snow house and explore the Eldborg crater. Bring your own shovel, light and lunch.

Departure (in private cars) from Mörkin 6

10:00 – 10:30, 13:00 – 13:30, 14:00 – 14:30

Dark stories in the Story Car

The Witch Nína tells scary stories in the dark.

Reykjavík City Library, Ingólfstorg

19:00 – 22:00

Sense of Touch

In a small dark room, guest can try their sense of touch with different shapes and textures. Also, exhibition of paintings by Soffía Sæmundsdóttir.

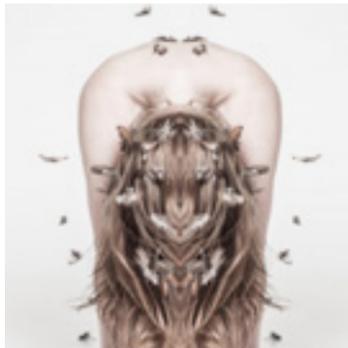
Kirsuberjatréð, Vesturgata 4

13:00 – 20:00

Exhibition of Photographs by Students

Photography students display their works.

Grandagarður 2, 101 Reykjavík (Saltfélagshúsinu)



Saturday, February 9

12:00 – 16:00

Helm of Disguise – Exhibition opening

French artist combines the organic and the inorganic in Icelandic nature.

Alliance française, Tryggvagata 8, second floor

14:00 – 16:00

Reykjavík Aikido and Jiu Jitsu Club

Self-defence in Reykjavík. Light training for beginners and skills exhibitions.

Aikido - Jiu Jitsu Dojo, Ármúla 19

14:00 – 16:00

Busking in the City

National radio station Rás 2 presents six musicians "Busking" together. Includes Snorri Helgason, Svavar Knútur, Jón Jónsson, Heiða Eiríksdóttir, Dóri Fjallabróðir and one special guest.

Café Haiti, Tapashúsið, Kolaportið

14:00 – 15:00

Speed Dance

Are you interested in break dance, Bollywood or Lindy Hop? Short dance seminars will be available in different locations in mall Kringlan.

Kringlan

14:45 – 15:30

Hip-hop

15:00 – 15:45 free lesson for under 13 y/o. 15:45 – 16:30 free lesson for over 14 y/o.

Brynja Péturs' Dance School, ÍR Club House, Skógarseli 12

16:00 – 17:30

Break dance

15:00 – 15:45 free lesson for under 13 y/o. 15:45- 16:30 free lesson for over 14 y/o.

Brynja Péturs' Dance School, Ball Room at Selásbraut 98

15:00 – 17:00

Children's Dance

Fun music, disco ball and lights colours and shadows. Dance teachers will be present to lead children in dance and games.

Dance Studio, Skúlagata 30

14:00 – 18:00

Stories from the Flea Market

Actress Kristín G. Magnús, recounts stories from the flea market.

The Flea Market, Baldursgata 37

14:00 – 18:00

Artist of the Year

The Icelandic Printmakers Association's Artist of the year 2013, Elva Hreiðarsdóttir exhibits.

The Icelandic Printmaking Association, Tryggvagata 17

17:00 – 18:00

Darkness in talk and tones

Úlfhildur Dagsdóttir and Finnish musicians from the Winter Alliance Matti Kallio, Lassi Logrén and Matti Latinen join forces for music and poetry.

Hannesarholt, Grundarstígur 10

20:00

She, she, them & that – Artist Group

Song and dance with a hint of circus.

HITT HÚSIÐ, UPPLÝSINGAMÍÐSTÖÐ

13:00 – 17:00

MYSTERIUM

Come, experience and interpret the strong colourful paintings of artist Hulda Hlín Magnúsdóttir.

Hlaðan, Gufunesveg.

13:00 – 17:00

Water

Association of Polish photographers in Iceland "Pozytywni" exhibits black and white photographs.

Hlaðan, Gufunesveg.

16:00 – 17:00

Advent

One-person show about farm hand that goes looking for sheep in the fall.

Hlaðan, Gufunesveg.

14:00 – 14:45

Robert the Roommate

Personal arrangements of classic rock songs.

Hlaðan, Gufunesveg.

13:00 – 20:00

Photography Exhibition

Photography Students exhibit their work.

Grandagarður 2 (Saltfélagshúsinu)

12:00 – 18:00

Varied Art

Artists Sigrún Erna Sigurðardóttir and Birna María Stiff show varied and different forms of art.

HITT HÚSIÐ, GALLERI TUKT

15:00 – 17:00

Conference on Video Art,

A panel of respected international curators.

The Nordic House, Sturlugata 5

17:00 – 22:00

Borderline Exhibition

Works by Icelandic and international artists.

The Nordic House, Sturlugata 5

14:00 – 15:30

English Music

Themed student concert.

The New Music School, Grensásveg 3

18:00

Say Hello to the Old Masters

Hotel Holt has one of the most unique private art collections in Iceland. Snorri, the hotel manager, will lead guests through the halls of the hotel, and talk about the story behind the paintings.

Hótel Holt, Bergstaðastræti 37

Sunday, February 10

14:30 – 15:00 & 16:00 – 16:30

Dark stories in the Story Car

The Witch Nína tells scary stories in the dark.

Reykjavík City Library, Ingólfstorg

15:00 – 16:30

Make a Bun's Day Wand

Try your hand at making a wand for bun's day.

Reykjavík City Library, Tryggvagata 15

14:00 – 18:00

Artist of the Year

The Icelandic Printmakers Association's Artist of the year 2013, Elva Hreiðarsdóttir exhibits.

The Icelandic Printmaking Association, Tryggvagata 17

13:00 – 17:00

MYSTERIUM

Come, experience and interpret the strong colourful paintings of artist Hulda Hlín

Magnúsdóttir.

Hlaðan, Gufunesvegur

13:00 – 17:00

Water

Association of Polish photographers in Iceland "Pozytywni" exhibits black and white photographs.

Hlaðan, Gufunesvegur

14:00 – 14:30 & 15:00 – 15:30

Winter Light

Acrobat and dancer Katla Þórarinsdóttir performs her magic in white silk.

Hlaðan, Gufunesvegur

10:00 – 15:00

Get out of the Dark

Exhibition of political posters and music from exotic countries.

Reykjavík Art Museum, Tryggvagata 17

15:00 – 16:10

Rococo Hour

A visit to the Rococo era of the 18th century with dancer Unnur Guðjónsdóttir. Historical review and Chinese tea.

Unnur's China Club, Njálsgata 33.

13:00 – 20:00

Photography Exhibition

Photography Students exhibit their work.

Grandagarður 2 (Saltfélagshúsinu)

14:00 – 18:00

Borderline Exhibition

Works by Icelandic and international artists.

The Nordic House, Sturlugata 5

The Love Games, Sunday, February 10



17:00 – 18:00

The Winter Festival Closing Ceremony

The Care Games are the work of artist Bergljót Arnalds. The aim is to create empathy, joy and love. Singers, dancers and circus acts, combined with actors and storytellers. The marching band Svanurinn will lead the Care Games Parade around the Pond, followed by a

11:00 – 18:00

Photography exhibition

Photographs of the works of Timo Jokela who works with natural material such as snow, wood and ice.

Reykjavík City Hall

18:00 – 22:00

Green Light 2

Artist Birgir Sigurðsson displays his work to the compositions of Oddur Garðarsson.

Reykjavík Sculptures Association í Reykjavík, Nýlendugata 15

Open during opening hours

Nordiccomics Islands – Exhibition

Nordic comics exhibition. Special focus on authors from Iceland, Greenland and the Åland Islands.

Museum Night

Friday, February 8 - 19:00 -24:00

Look out for the Museum bus.

Alliance Française

Tryggvagata 8, 101 Reykjavík

19:00 – 23:00

Helm of Disguise – Exhibition opening

French artist combines the organic and the inorganic in Icelandic nature.

Árbæjarsafn Museum

Kistuhyl 4, 110 Reykjavík

20:00 – 20:40

Poetry Group from Gjábakki

The poetry group performs and discusses Icelandic poetry.

21:00 – 21:40

Outdoors Yoga

Yoga instructor Ragnheiður Ýr Grétarsdóttir introduces outdoors yoga by Elliðarárdalur

22:00 – 22:40

Hringanóri Duet

Original songs and arrangements of old folk songs for song, guitar and cello.

23.00 – 23.40

Guided tour in the dusk

Guided walk through Árbæjarsafn Museum, infused with horror and ghost stories.

Reykjavík Art Museum – Ásmundarsafn

Sigtún, 105 Reykjavík

19:00 – 24:00

Creating Stars: Kaleidoscope workshop

The desire for space is a curious feeling.

21:00 – 22:00

Guided Tour: The Fire Within

Guided tour of the works of sculpturer Ásmundur Sveinsson.



22:00 – 22:30

Singing Stars

A singing group known to spread joy.

Reykjavík City Library

Tryggvagata 15, 101 Reykjavík

20:30 – 22:30

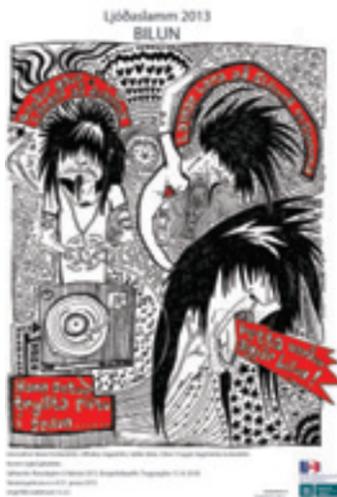
Poetry Slam!

Young people from 15–25 y/o battle in poetry slam

21:30

Poetry Slam

German artist Christian Ritter is a guest at this year's poetry Slam, he will perform during intermission.



23:00

Something the Place Suggested

Installation by the dance company Raven.



Reykjavík Municipal Archives

Tryggvagata 15, 101 Reykjavík

19:00 – 24:00

Documentation of the City's sports history

Exhibition of documents, photographs and items related to the city's sports history.

21:45 – 23:00

Reykjavík sports history in photographs pre-1980

Projected images from the City's sports history.

22:00 – 22:45

Jón Þór Sigurleifsson, solo guitar

Premiere of minimalistic solo piece for 8-string guitar.

23:00 – 23:45

Reykjavík sports history in**photographs post-1980**

Projected images from the City's sports history.

Garðabær Municipal Library

Garðatorgi 7, 210 Garðabær,

19:30

Theatrical Improvisation

Theatrical students from the Garðabær secondary school entertain.

21:45

Live music

Troubadour Svavar Knútur plays a few songs.

Garðabær Municipal Library – Álftanes

Álftanesskóla, 212 Garðabæ

19:30

Song Group

Girls from Álftanes elementary school sing few songs.

20:30

The Culture of Álftanes then and now

Lecture by historian Anna Ólafsdóttir Björnsson.

Hafnarfjörður Municipal Library

Strandgata 1, 220 Hafnarfjörður

19:00 – 24:00

Dúkkulísurnar

The all-girls 80s' band Dúkkulísurnar exhibit items from their industrious career.

19:00 – 24:00

The Lava in the Dark

Exhibition of artifacts and things made from lava and their interplay with light.

19:00 – 24:00

Majestic Darkness

Exhibition by children from the Hvammur Kindergarten.

19:00 – 20:30

Fortune Telling

Fortune teller Sigríður Klingenberg draws your cards.

19:30 – 20:30

Renn wenn du kannst

Film screening by The Goethe Institute.

20:30 – 21:00

Reykjavík Technical College Choir

40-voices men's choir performs.

20:30 – 22:00

“Drei”

Film screening by The Goethe Institute

22.00 – 23.00

Cease Tone

Musician Hafsteinn Þráinsson plays a few songs

Kópavogur Municipal Library

Hamraborg 6a, 200 Kópavogur

19:30 – 20:00 & 20:30 – 21:00

Unique Einar

Magician entertains children.

20:00 – 22:00

Fortune Teller

Fortune teller Sirrý looks into your future.

21:30 – 22:00

Dream Interpretations

Kristján Frimannsson interprets dreams for guests.

23:00 – 23:30

Live Music

children and young people in the neighbourhood.

Laugardalslaug Swimming Pool

15:00 – 16:00

Laugardalur: Guided Tour

Historian Stefán Pálsson leads a guided tour of the area, and recounts the history of Laugardalur.

18:00 – 18:30

A Moment of Choirs

A few choirs join hands and sing together by the pool.

20:00 – 22:00

Women's Chess Competition

Chess in the pool. All women are eligible.

19:45 – 21:15

KR Super Challenge.

Music, swimming and magnificent lights equals great fun.

Troubadour Svavar Knútur plays a few songs.

Seltjarnarnes Municipal Library

Eiðistorgi, 170 Seltjarnarnes

19:30 – 24:00

Exhibition opening

Modern design of lamps, overhead lights and lighting.

20:00 – 22:00

Family Workshop

Participants work on projects relating to creativity and light.



20:00 – 20:30 & 22:00 – 22:30

Talk

Introduction to lighting

20:45 – 21:00

Brother John

Teenage Choir from Valhúsaskóli elementary school performs.

21:15 – 21:45

The Salsa Mafia

The Salsa Mafia has just returned from Cuba, ready to show you the latest salsa moves.

Hafnarfjörður Museum, Pakkhúsið

Vesturgata 6, 220 Hafnarfjörður

19:00 – 24:00.

Three Exhibitions in One House

Short guided tours of Pakkhúsið and the permanent exhibition “The Way it Was,” the themed exhibition “In the Spirit of Catholicism” and an exhibition of old toys.

19:00 – 24:00.

Light Walk – Matrix

Installation by students from the Hafnarfjörður Technical College.

20:00 – 21:00.

Granny's Tales

Stories from the past

19:00 – 24:00.

Exhibition: Merchants and Their Things

Exhibition of items related to merchants and merchandise in the old warehouse Beggubúð, built in 1906.

19:00 – 24:00.

The House of Bjarni Sívertssen

The oldest house in Hafnarfjörður, The Sívertsens' House, built in 1803–05 open for visitors.

21:00 – 22:00

Magic and Mysticism

Fortune teller Sigríður Klingenberg provides a mystic atmosphere.

Gerðarsafn – Kópavogur Art Museum

Kópavogur Art Museum, 200 Kópavogur

19:00 – 23:00

Music in Waves - For Children

Guided tour for children of the exhibition Music in Waves.

19:00 – 20:00

Music in Waves

Artist Helgi Þorgils Friðjónsson, gives a guided tour of his exhibition Music in

Waves at 19:00.

22:00 – 22:30

Improvisation by Ballet Students from the Icelandic Academy of the Arts

Students from the ballet program from the Icelandic Academy of the Arts perform an improvised dance piece inspired by the exhibition Music in Waves.

Gljúfrasteinn – The Laxness Museum

271 Mosfellsbær

21:00 – 22:00

Live Music: Snorri Helgason and Silla

Folk-pop mash up courtesy of musicians Sigurlaug Gísladóttir (múm & Mr.Silla) and Snorri.



The Icelandic Printmaking Association

Tryggvagata 17, hafnarmegin, 101 Reykjavík

19:00 – 24:00

Lettermess 2013 - Letterpress Installation

Guest press their letters and create the installation “Lettermess.”

Hafnarborg, - Hafnarfjörður

Strandgata 34, 220 Hafnarfjörður

19:00 – 24:00

Björk Viggósdóttir – Gravity

Installation by Björk Viggósdóttir. Guest become a part of the artwork, changing the environment and altering the space.

20:00 – 20:30

Gravity – Guided Tour

Guided tour of the exhibition Gravity by Björk Viggósdóttir.

19:00 – 24:00

Ingólfur Arnarsson – Drawings

Pristine delicacy is a characteristic of both Ingólfur Arnarsson's paintings and drawings. This exhibition consists of 40 drawings showing different shades of gray.

20:00 – 22:00

Guided tour of the Museum Archives

An opportunity to look behind the scenes. .

20:30 – 21:00

Artist Talk – Ingólfur Arnarsson – Drawings

Ingólfur Arnarsson talks with guests about his exhibition.

21:00 – 21:30

Artist Talk – Björk Viggósdóttir – Gravity

Björk Viggósdóttir talks with guests about her exhibition.

Reykjavík Art Museum - Hafnarhús

Tryggvagata 17, 101 Reykjavík

19:30 – 20:15

A Superhero Mission

Tour of the museum for children.

Swimming Pool Night – Saturday, February 9 From 20:00 – 24:00

Breiðholtiðlaug Swimming Pool, Austurbergi 3

19:00 – 24:00

Student Exhibition

Clothes and textile by design by students from Fjölbrautskólinn í Breiðholti College exhibited.



19:30-20:15

White Signal

Disco from the 70s and the 80s.

20:30-20:40

Dance Group Swaggerific

Award winning dance group Swaggerific demonstrates a few moves

21:00 – 21:45

Aqua Zumba

Zumba combined with swimming pool aerobics. A healthy workout.

22:30 – 22:55

Water Yoga

Yoga exercises in water, and meditation in the hot tubs.

22:55 – 23:15

Gongs and water

Float in the water and relax to the beat of the Gong.

23:15 – 23:45

Short Films

Short films documenting the life of

19:00 – 19:40

Water Yoga

Yoga exercises in water, and meditation in the hot tubs.

19:40 – 20:00

Gongs and water

Float in the water and relax to the beat of the Gong.

Nauthólsvík Geothermal Beach

18:00 – 24:00

Cozy Hot Tub

Torchlight, stars and the Aurora Borealis on the beach.

19.00-19.30

The quartet Kvika sings.

23.00-23.30

The quartet Kvika sings.

Vesturbæjarlaug Swimming Pool, Höfsvallagata:

20:00 – 24:00

Aurora Borealis – Pool party

Artist Kitty Von-Sometime prepares the mood for guests with DJs and glow sticks.



21:00 – 22:00

Guided tours

Guided Tours of the current exhibitions.

Kópavogur Municipal Archives

Digranesvegi 7, 200 Kópavogur

19:00 – 24:00

Kópavogur's Sports History

Exhibition of documents relating to Kópavogur's sports history.

Museum of Design and Applied Arts

Garðatorgi 1, 210 Garðabæ

20:00 – 24:00

Exhibition Opening: Glit

Exhibition covering the early years of pottery makers Glit.

20:30 – 22:30

Pottery

Try your hand at pottery

Reykjavík Art Museum - Kjarvalsstaðir

Flókagata 24, 105 Reykjavík

19:30 – 20:30

Exploration for kids

Guided tour of the exhibition Flow, where art will be explored from different angles.

21:00 – 21:30 & 22:00 – 22:30

Flow – Behind the Scenes

Guided tour focusing on the research behind the exhibition.

21:30 – 22:00

A Strawberry Waits in the Field

Live series by musicians Tinna Þorsteinsdóttir and Guðmundur Steinn Gunnarsson in cooperation the Reykjavík Art Museum.

The Farmhouse Krókur

Garðavegur & Garðaholtvegur crossing, 210 Garðabæ

19:00 – 24:00

Open House

Krókur is a small, rebuild traditional old corrugated iron house with a grass roof, originally built in 1923.

The Settlement Exhibition

Aðalstræti 16, 101 Reykjavík

19:00 – 23:00

Einherjar, the Vikings of Reykjavík

Modern day Vikings, armed to the teeth, roam the exhibition floor.

21:00 – 23:00

Temporary Museum of Small Things

Do you have collection? Stamps? Cards? Pins? Bring your collection and take part in the Temporary Museum of Small Things.

20:00 – 21:00

Dear Skúli

Special guests discuss 18th century national hero Skúli Magnússon.

20:00 – 23:00

Icelandic Blacksmiths

Blacksmiths ply their trade outside the museum.

Iceland Academy of the Arts Program

19:00 – 19:40

A Visit in the Dark

A guided tour of the Reykjavík Zoo & Family Park, Hafrafelli v/Engjaveg, 104 Reykjavík

18:00 – 21:00

Environmental Art in the Botanical Garden

Finnish environmental artist Timo Jokela exhibits works in cooperation with the Icelandic Academy of the Arts, made from natural materials, snow, wood and ice. Botanical Garden, Laugardal, 104 Reykjavík

19:00 – 21:00

Experience and Senses

Guest take part in an experience that will require all senses. An interplay of light and shadows, sound and environment Botanical Garden, Laugardal, 104 Reykjavík

ASÍ Art Museum

Freyjugata 41, 101 Reykjavík

19:00 – 24:00

Exhibition Bjarki Bragason

Paintings by Bjarki Bragason.

20:00 – 20:45 & 21:30 – 22:15

Artist Talk Bjarki Bragason

Images, language, and time influence paintings by Bjarki Bragason.



Einar Jónsson Museum

Eiríksgata, 101 Reykjavík

20:30 & 21:30

Concert

Soprano Anna Jónsdóttir and harpist Sophie Schonjans perform works by Henry Purcell

National Gallery of Iceland

Friðkirkjuvegur 7, 101 Reykjavík

20:00 – 24:00

Old Treasures and Foreign Influences

A selection of foreign paintings from the gallery's catalogue and a selection of works by Icelandic painters from the early 20th century.

The Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum

Laugarnestangi 70, 105 Reykjavík

19:00 – 24:00

Milestones, Key works by Sigurjón Ólafsson

The exhibition encompasses a period of a little over fifty years in the middle of the 20th century, providing insight into the various periods of the art of sculptor Sigurjón Ólafsson

Kl. 20.00 – 22.30.

Árni Heiðar Karlsson, Pianist

Pianist Árni Heiðar plays the Grand Piano.

Reykjavík Museum of Photography

Tryggvagata 15, 101 Reykjavík

21:00 – 22:00

Exhibition Kvosin 1986 & 2011

Exhibition of photos from the book Kvosin, a photography book on Reykjavík.

The Ruins of Hofstaðir

Kirkjulundi, 210 Garðabæ

19:00 – 24:00

The Ruins of Hofstaðir

Ruins of an old house from the Settlement age in the 9th century. Interactive exhibition.



Molinn Youth Centre

Hábraut 2, 200 Kópavogur

20:00 – 24:00

Uss!

Exhibition opening. Photographers Sonja Nikulásdóttir and Ólóf Sigþórsdóttir photograph modern problems.

Natural History Museum of Kópavogur

Hamraborg 6a, 200 Kópavogur

20:30 – 21:00

Funny Creatures!

Artist Helgi Þorgils Friðjónsson talks about his strange and funny statues on exhibit.

The Nordic House

Sturlugata 5, 101 Reykjavík

19:00 – 24:00

Photography exhibition

Exhibition from Mexico and an international short film festival

The Ásgrímur Jónsson Museum

Bergstaðarstræti 74, 101 Reykjavík

21:30 – 21:50

Heroes of the Past

Guided tour of the exhibition.

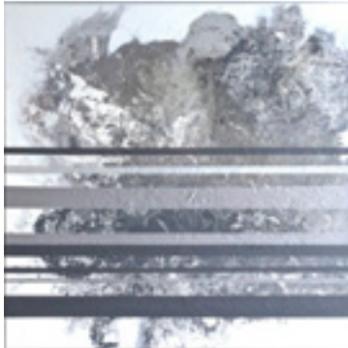
SÍM, The Association of Visual Artists

Hafnarstræti 16, 101 Reykjavík

19:00 – 22:00

Gray tone Ásdís Spanó

Light influences the gray tones for artist Ásdís Spanó, who exhibits 500 shades of gray.



Víkin Reykjavík Maritime Museum

Grandagarði 8, 101 Reykjavík

19:00 – 23:00

The Magnificent Darkness

The Icelandic Astronomy Society educates guests about astronomy and the stars in the skies.

21:00 – 22:00

Folk Art

Akranes Church Choir reenacts famous folk tales with photographs and paintings.

19:00 – 22:00

The Pirate Workshop

Workshop for children. Create your own Pirate ship.

19:00 – 22:00

Treasure Hunt aboard the Pirate

Museum

Solve the clue, find the treasure.

19:00 – 24:00

Art Exhibition

Exhibition by hobby painters.

The Saga Museum

Öskjuhlöð, 105 Reykjavík

Kl. 19:00 – 24:00

Viking Warriors

Vikings from the Viking club Rimmugýgur visit the museum in full armor.

The Icelandic Music History Museum

Hábraut 2, 200 Kópavogur

19:00 – 24:00

...dance later

A program featuring Icelandic dance music from old folk dances to the 20th century.

20:30 – 21:00

Accordion Music

The Reykjavík Accordion Society plays a little classical dance music.

The National University Library

Arngrímsgata 3, 107 Reykjavík

20:00 – 22:00

The Lady of the Mountain and the Reykjavík Kitchen

Exhibition and a mini-conference on food- and restaurant culture in Reykjavík during the early 20th century.

The Culture House

Hverfisgata 15, 101 Reykjavík

19:00 – 23:00

Writing on skin

Guest can try their hand at dermatography.



20:00 – 21:00

Light in the Dark I

Students from the music department of the Iceland Academy of the Arts create music magic.

20:30 – 21:00

Folk Songs in the Dark

Icelandic folk songs, and original pieces arranged for voice and cello.

21:00 – 23:00

Light in the Dark II

Students of composition at the music department of the Icelandic Academy of the Arts perform chamber music and modern compositions.

19:00 – 24:00

Thousand years

Exhibition from the National Gallery of Iceland. Works from Icelandic artist from the end of the 19th century.

19:00 – 24:00

The Golden Plover

The Icelandic national bird, The Golden Plover, inspires the works of quadriplegic painter Edda Heiðrún Backman, who uses her mouth to create oil and water color paintings.

19:00 – 24:00

Jón Sigurðsson in his Youth

Exhibition on the national hero Jón

Sigurðsson, who grew up in poverty in the isolated West fjords of Iceland, to become the leader of the movement for an independent Icelandic state in the 19th Century.

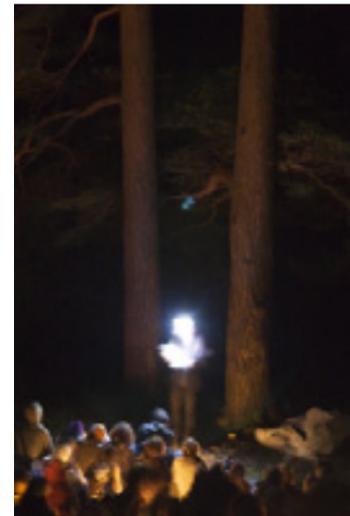
The Living Art Museum

Skúlagata 28, 101 Reykjavík

19:00 – 24:00

Judgement is the Mirror

Exhibition of works by artists Tiong Ang, Roger Palmer, Jan Kaila, Japo Knuutila, Clodagh Emoe and Mick Wilson, curated by Henk Slager.



National Museum of Iceland

Suðurgata 41, 101 Reykjavík

19:00 – 21:00

Art Workshop for Children

Workshop for children based around the celestial bodies and time.

19:00 – 19:30

The Reykjavík Boys Choir

The Reykjavík Boys Choir sings a few songs.

20:00 – 22:00

Agnes

Icelandic feature film about the events that lead to the last execution in Iceland.

22:00 – 23:00

Murder!

A murder has been committed in the National Museum. Come and chase down the clues. Who is guilty?

23:00 – 23:30

Árstíðir Live

The band Árstíðir plays for guests in the museum.

National Archives of Iceland

Laugavegi 162, 105 Reykjavík

19:30 – 22:30

Introduction the National Archives

Introductory tour of the National Archives. Tours start at 19:30, 20:30 and 22:30. Only 15 spots per tour. Registration at www.archives.is.

21:15 – 21:45

The story of the Sólborg Case from 1893

The Sólborg Case is a well-known Icelandic court case. Historic review and photos.

International Children's Day 2013

Gerðuberg Culture Centre and Miðberg Leisure Centre

Art and craft workshops

Saturday, February 11, 13:00 – 16:00
Entrance free – all welcome!

All the different animals

A dog or a cat or a mouse or a bird? What animal would you want to be? The Witch's daughters will transform you into any animal you choose, using face paint.

Flying high

Do you want to fly with the witches and the magicians towards the dark and the mysterious? Learn go make costumes for

wizards and witches

Origami Workshop

Origami Iceland teaches a few simple ways to fold paper for a something.

Instrument Factory

Make your own instrument and create your own sound.

Hip-hop REY

Dancers from Swaggerific dance group teach the basic steps in street dancing.

Wizards and Witches

Create your own terrifying wizard or witch claws
Science Shop
Do you want to experiment with chemistry? Step into our lab.

Witch's Café

Do you dare to drink the green potion? Not all are brave enough to dine at the Witch's Café.

Cook over Fire

Make bread on an open fire.

Closing Ceremony – Festival of Light

and Darkness

The World Children's Day concludes when all participants gather in the square to show their creations.

Don't miss International Children's Day in Gerðuberg!

Gerðuberg Cultural Centre
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