



The
**REYKJAVÍK
GRAPEVINE**

TOURIST OF THE YEAR

Sindri & The Glacial Picnickers

Sin Fang made Album of the Year,
Song of the Year, and is posing as
the Tourist of the Year.

THE GRAPEVINE
MUSIC AWARDS



YOUR FREE COPY

Issue 01 × 2014

January 10 - February 6

www.grapevine.is

Editorial | Anna Andersen

ASK YOUR VÖLVA

Anna's 36th Editorial



Many Icelanders around me were pretty upset last month when the Associated Press ran a story about an "elf lobby" joining environmentalists in their struggle to block road construction across a lava field.

The story, which contained some factual errors, played up the idea that Icelanders (A) believe in elves and (B) take this belief so seriously that they might halt road construction for fear of retribution from the elves that supposedly have a church there somewhere. And thanks to this story or any of the elf stories that have run in the past, people all over the world now think Icelanders are a bunch of kooks.

The truth is though, Icelanders are a bit kooky and it seems to me that they don't think anything is wrong with that until they've become the butt of an international joke.

Take for instance the peculiar tradition that local newspapers and magazines here have of reporting "the future." As we round out each lap around the sun, Icelandic reporters reach out to their publication's seer, also known as a völvu, to gather her predictions for the coming year.

I'm talking magazine cover stories and articles on our most widely read news sites that recount predictions from a typically anonymous source, who may or may not have the ability to see the future. What's more, media outlets, including Iceland's national broadcaster RÚV, report on what the völvu at the other outlets are reporting.

At this point in an earlier draft of my editorial, our Editor-in-Chief Haukur S. Magnússon left me a comment suggesting that I was overstating the reality of the situation by writing that the media

"reports" predictions from these völvu. "I mean, everyone basically knows it's just a bunch of journalists having fun, using their purported insight to predict the future," he wrote.

Feeling unsure about this, I called the editor of Víkan, one of Iceland's oldest magazines, which has been printing völvu's predictions since the 1970s. She confirmed, Víkan has always worked with real seers and the one the magazine currently works with has been with them for the last 10 years.

Víkan was for a long time the only publication printing völvu's predictions and their völvu issue is always one of their best selling ones, if not the best selling one of the year. This year, Víkan's völvu predicts shitty weather, two volcanic eruptions and another scandal on par with the Vodafone leak. And perhaps she's worth taking seriously, as she correctly predicted the turmoil that we've seen at RÚV.

I have no idea what the other media outlets do, and perhaps the majority of people don't really believe in the power of these völvu, but that doesn't make the tradition any less kooky if you ask me. I highly doubt the Greeks and Italians are reading reports from sibyls in their local newspapers. Just imagine if the New York Times or LA Times were reporting this kind of stuff.

The best explanation I've heard for why these "beliefs" persist in Iceland came from Magnús Skarphéðinsson, the headmaster of Iceland's Elf School. He believes that it has to do with the fact that this nation was long an isolated island in the middle of the North Atlantic. Thus, the Enlightenment, which spread through Europe in the 18th Century,

didn't make it to Iceland, leaving Icelanders in the dark, unexposed to rationalism.

The real problem with the elf story, as I see it, is the fact that it's been so hammed up. Whata was once a quirky and enjoyable part of our cultural heritage has now been overplayed. We're sick of the elf story. We're sick of having to explain it to people who read a few lines from some international wire service looking for traction.

At the same time, the Icelandic media can hardly be up in arms over the foreign media's elf stories when it runs annual "reports" from seers. Isn't that also a bit kooky?

TRACK OF THE ISSUE



Sin Fang: "Young Boys"

Download NOW at www.grapevine.is

From Sin Fang's third solo album, 'Flowers,' (which we awarded Album of the Year, see page 16), the song "Young Boys" embodies the crazy addictive indie vibe Sin Fang is known for. The simple chorus about young boys smoking in the woods is repeated through the song, overlaid with colourful arrangements of tambourines, harmonies, a subtle electric bass, keys and numerous other effects. This song will make you want to put on the oldest clothes you still fit into and think back to the days when your childhood turned into your teens.

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 Icelandair 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 Icelandair'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 Kreisí / Icelandic Frase For Pis Issue!

"Fyrirgefðu, en er ekki kominn tími á að henda jólatrénu"

(Fyr-ir-gev-thu, en err eh-kke, come-in team-eh ow ath hen-dah yol-ah-tr-yeah-n-eh?)

Pardon, isn't it time to throw out your Christmas tree?



Hafnarstræti 15, 101 Reykjavík
www.grapevine.is
grapevine@grapevine.is
 Published by Fróken ehf.
www.froken.is
 Member of the Icelandic Travel Industry Association
www.saf.is
 Printed by Landsprent ehf. in 25.000 copies.

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

Editor:
 Anna Andersen / anna@grapevine.is

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

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

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

Contributing Writers

Björn Teitsson
 Bob Cluness
 Burke Jam
 Davíð Roach
 Eiríkur Smith
 Helgi Hrafn Guðmundsson
 Dr. Helgi Pjeturss
 James Rice
 Joe Shooman
 John Rogers
 Kári Tulinius
 Óli Dóri
 Óskar Bragi Stefánsson
 Paul Fontaine
 Vera Illugadóttir

Journalist
 Larissa Kyzer / larissa@grapevine.is

Journalist & Listings editor
 Tómas Gabriel Benjamin / gabriel@grapevine.is

Editorial Interns
 Alex Baumhardt / alex@grapevine.is
 Ben Smick / benjamin@grapevine.is

Art Director
 Hörður Kristbjörnsson / hordur@dodlur.is

Design:
 Hrefna Sigurðardóttir / hrefna@dodlur.is

Photographers:

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

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

Distribution manager:
distribution@grapevine.is

Proofreader:
 Jim Rice

Listings:
listings@grapevine.is

Submissions inquiries:
editor@grapevine.is

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

General inquiries:
grapevine@grapevine.is

Founders:

Hilmar Steinn Grétarsson,
 Hörður Kristbjörnsson,
 Jón Trausti Sigurðarson,
 Oddur Óskar Kjartansson,
 Valur Gunnarsson

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

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



Photographer: Axel Sigurðarson
www.axelsig.com
On The Cover: Sindri Már Sigfússon
Make-Up: Ásdís Gunnarsdóttir
Thanks: JÖR & Dórunn Guðadóttir



KOLABRAUTIN RISTORANTE

UNIQUE EXPERIENCE AND A VIEW LIKE NO OTHER

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

Kolabrautin is on 4th floor Harpa

Reservations +354 519 9700

info@kolabrautin.is
www.kolabrautin.is

GEYSIR



ICELANDIC WOOL



WORN OUT FOR CENTURIES

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

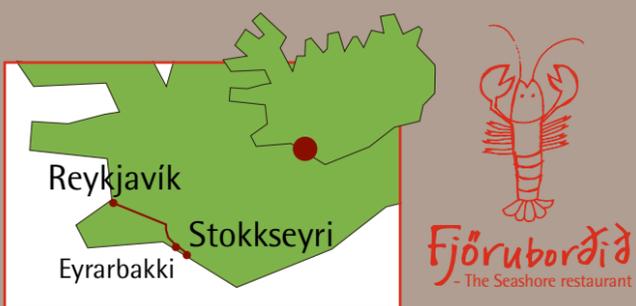


GEYSIR

by the sea
and a delicious lobster
at Fjörubordid in Stokkseyri



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



> Only 45 minutes drive from Reykjavik

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

Sour grapes & stuff

MOST AWESOME LETTER

Carol Plunkett

I gazed in awe and wonder as God's pyrotechnics played
Across a pale Icelandic sky with crescent moon displayed
The ground a frozen wasteland and the sea a crystal braid
And all the while Aurora danced her dance of light and shade
I walked across a snowy hill whose summit tipped the sky
I gasped aloud at shooting stars that flared a last goodbye
The constellations windows to a world beyond my eye
And all the while Aurora trailed her tendrils from on high
Though I was just a young girl then the memory charms me still
When I traversed the snowy wastes and tramped atop that hill
And braved the biting midnight wind to stand for good or ill
Perchance to see Aurora dance the dance she's dancing still

I'm sure you get this all the time, but we found our visit a mind-bending experience and one that we have raved about non-stop to anyone who would listen. The object of our visit, the magical Aurora, was just the icing on a very unique,

quirky and awe-inspiring cake. Hope you like the poem, though I can't hope to do it justice.

Loved your newspaper too - it sums up the Icelandic character beautifully!

Carol & Mike Plunkett
Southampton
England

Dear Carol and Mike-

It's true that visitors often tell us that they've had amazing visits to Iceland—something we never tire of hearing—but none of us can remember the last time we got a poem specially composed to commemorate the occasion. Were you a poet before your visit? In either case, we hope the muse stays with you into the future.

Lyricaly,

The Grapevine

Dear member of the Grapevine crew,

this summer your magazine published an article about the Heimaey volcano eruption in 1973, especially about a documentary "My unfamiliar home – Accepting the Volcano". It was told there that the DVD would be available in English "later this year". Maybe you could tell me whether the DVD is out now, and where you can order it.

It was very interesting to read your magazine and learn more about the country and the issues discussed at that time. And your "best of Reykjavik" list offered ideas at least for the next twenty visits.

Many thanks and kind regards,

Rainer Krems
Hohen Neuendorf, Germany

Dear Rainer-

You must have a sixth sense! We checked in with Jóhanna Ýr Jónsdóttir, one of the documentarians who made "My unfamiliar home," just after you sent your email, and she told us that only hours before, she had sent the film abroad for DVD production and packaging. The DVD, which was completed in mid-December, has subtitles in English, Spanish, German, Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian. There isn't a website where you can buy the documentary yet, but take a look at the Facebook page (Útlendingur heima - uppgjör við eldgos) for purchase and contact information.

Do you usually have such prescient timing? Is there anything we should know?

Speculatively,

The Grapevine

Hello Everyone,

First off, I enjoy your website very much. As a Canadian male of forty eight, I probably don't hit your demographic, but I stumbled upon your site and love it.

My question is, are there any jobs for professionals from Canada? I worked in media, television and broadcasting. I started in sales right out of University, then marketing and advertising for a number of years, before become the Director of Operations.

I have been researching Reykjavik and Iceland for a month now, and I truly would love to relocate. I would enjoy your input.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

John Dickins

Hey John,

It's difficult for Canadians and Americans to get a work permit. Unfortunately... Not sure what to tell you. Your best bet is probably to marry an Icelander.

The Grapevine

MOST AWESOME LETTER TWO FREE PAIRS OF WOOLLEN SOCKS!

Yes, this lovely prize will keep your feet warm and cosy throughout your stay in Iceland and in any subsequent places you might go that sometimes get cold. And these aren't just any old woollen socks either, these are the colourful, wonderful, extra-long kind from Geysir.

Congratulations to this issue's MOST AWESOME LETTER. Drop us a line at letters@grapevine.is to find out how to collect those free socks! And if you're in the market for some socks come next issue, why not write us a wonderful reader letter to that same address. Like Axl Rose said: "It's so easy!"



ADVENTURES ON BREIDAFJORDUR BAY

- VIKINGSUSHI ADVENTURE**
Winter schedule every Tuesday & Sunday
-please see www.seatours.is
- FERRY BALDUR**
The bridge to the Westfjords

Booking number +354 433 2254
Check out the schedule at
www.seatours.is

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

Le Château des Dix Gouttes

The Ten Drops
VIN DE SAUCIE

WE ARE OPEN FROM 09:00 AM UNTIL 01:00 AM
Lougavegur 27, 101 Reykjavik | +354 551-9380 | www.facebook.com/LeChateauDesDixGouttes



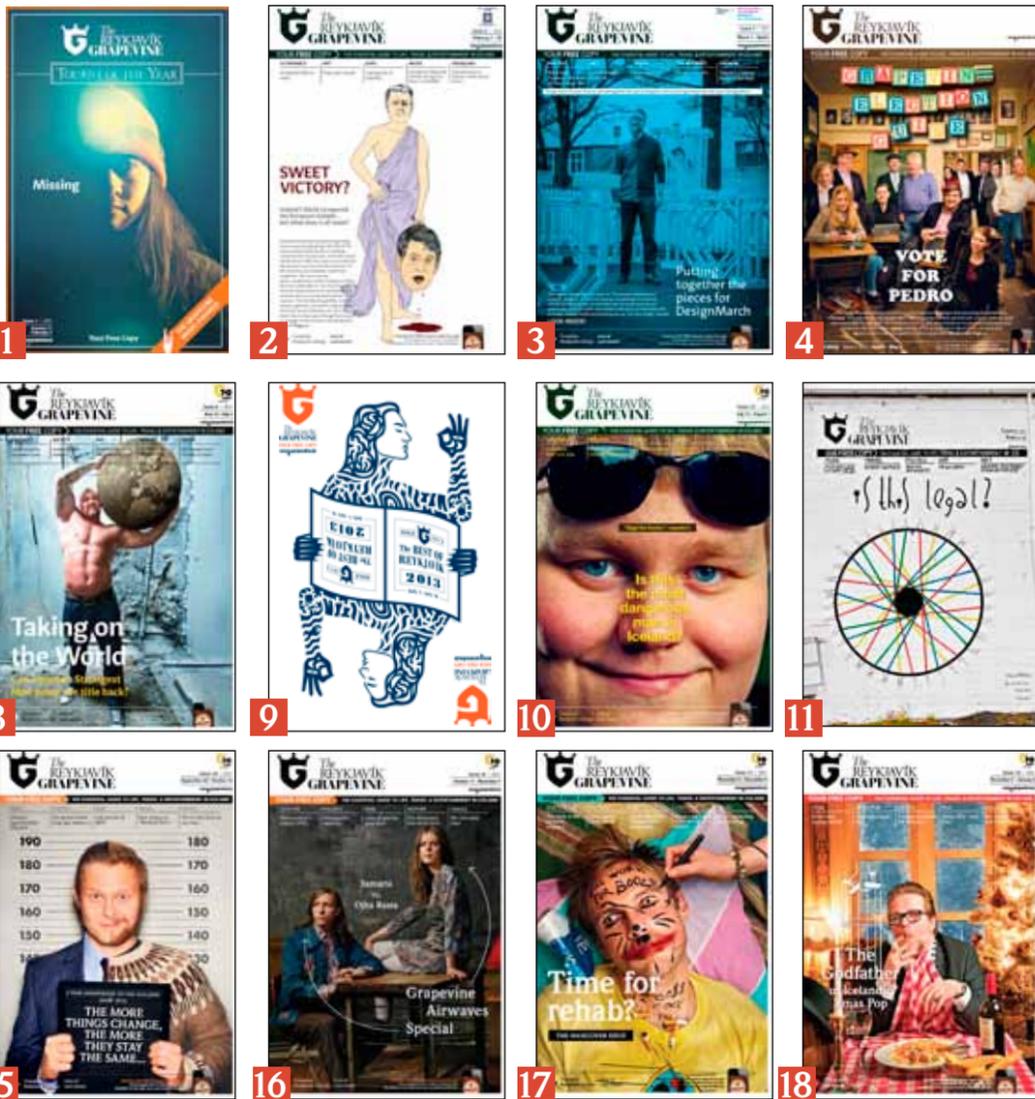
**BE
WARM
BE
WELL**

Old Year | In review

What We Featured

2013: Year In Covers

— Anna Andersen



Every year, The Grapevine prints 18 issues that get distributed around Iceland and uploaded to the web. Looking through the last batch, it's difficult to fathom how we pulled some of them off in time. A lot of late nights were spent at the office. A lot of coffee was consumed. A lot of sleep was lost. It was one hell of a ride. We hope you enjoyed the read!

1 As publications around us invariably honour some kind of "Person of the Year," we—as the unabashed tourist rag that we are—decided to honour a "Tourist of the Year." The winner was immediately obvious to us. It was the woman who unknowingly took part in the search for herself after getting "lost" in Iceland's highlands. The search went on for hours before she realised that she was in fact the missing Asian woman described as 20-30-years-old, 160 cm tall, wearing dark clothing and carrying a small light-coloured handbag. Cue all kinds of clever international headlines about the woman who found herself in Iceland.

This issue we also launched our first annual Music Awards, which were a really long time coming.

2 For our second issue of the year, we planned to finally print a cover story on Iceland's elusive Jewish community, but a rather big event derailed our plans a day or two before print: The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) ruled in Iceland's favour in the long-disputed Icesave case. Quickly, we wrote an analysis of what Iceland's victory meant and, in an attempt to tie this to our feature on the Jewish community, we went with a David and Goliath motif on the cover. Holding Gordon Brown's bloody, goliath-size head is Iceland's President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, who stood up to the UK (and the Netherlands) by refusing to sign those two Icesave bills (that I'm not going to go into the details of). There was some concern that the illustration by our Hrefna Sigurðardóttir was too graphic, if I recall correctly.

3 As has become tradition, we once again relinquished control of our third cover of the year to the designers behind the identity of Reykjavík's annual

DesignMarch festival. This year they were graphic designers Ármann Agnarsson and Jónas Valtýsson (yep, they're the guys on the cover). Inside, we featured a pullout chock full of design-related stuff including our annual Design Awards.

4 With the upcoming parliamentary election, we decided to feature a massive election guide in our fourth issue. This involved hounding would-be candidates from an unprecedented number of parties—20 at one point!—until they turned in answers to our rather lengthy survey. For our cover, we got heads from all 13 parties to show up for a cover shoot, which photographer Baldur Kristján executed wonderfully. A 14th party joined the fray, but was a day late and a dollar short for the shoot. Sorry, Sturla Jónsson.

5 Given how obsessed Iceland is with the arguably kitschy Eurovision Song Contest, it was about time we featured it on a cover. After some hesitation, this year's contestant Eyþór Ingi Gunnlaugsson agreed to pose for the cover. As you can see, he's about to get splashed in the face with water (...okay, you're going to have to use your imagination), as our hopeful (and nationalistic) island nation of 320,000 fails to win, again. In our interview with Eyþór, he said that Eurovision turns Icelanders into monsters.

6 For this issue's feature, author Andri Snær Magnason—who is perhaps best known for his book 'Dreamland – A Self Help Manual For A Frightened Nation' and more recently 'LoveStar'—updated an Icelandic article he wrote three years earlier called, "Í landi hinna klikkuðu karlanna" ("In the Land of the Mad Men"). It seemed especially timely to be printing it given that the nation had just voted back into power the very parties

that were responsible for driving Iceland's heavy industry agenda. The environmentalist was photographed taking refuge in a moss covered lava field in Reykjanes where there are plans to harness more geothermal energy to power more heavy industry.

7 We turned 10 this issue! For our birthday cover, we gathered 10 people who have graced Grapevine covers in each of the past 10 years—from Megas in 2003 to Hallgrímur Helgason in 2012. This issue also corresponded nicely with our third annual Bar Guide, for which we inevitably received some angry phone calls. Our biggest mistake this year was to confuse Ob-La-Di Ob-La-Da for a karaoke bar. It is not!

8 For some reason a water polo player from California who likes strong men decided to intern with us this spring. He walked into the office on his first day completely star struck after having just seen Hafþór Björnsson get into his car in downtown Reykjavík. Of course he was raving about Iceland's strongest—the world's third strongest man (yep, we totally knew who he was talking about and didn't have to Google him). Before he left, our rare Grapevine jock wrote a feature on Hafþór and his bid to return the Strongest Man title to Iceland. Hafþór didn't end up taking the title this year, but he did score an acting gig, playing "The Mountain" in season four of Game of Thrones.

Graphic designer Siggí Odds illustrated **9** the cover of our annual Best of Reykjavík issue this time around. The issue itself is much like past Best of Reykjavík issues, which are kind of a pain to make, as they involve lots of arguing about pizza and hamburgers.

When our former designer, hacker and self-proclaimed maker of the internet Páll Hilmarrsson asked us if we wanted to feature an interview with "Siggí, the hacker," we didn't hesitate to say yes. This 21-year-old Icelandic boy had become infamous for two-timing Wikileaks' Julian Assange as an FBI informant and we were curious to hear his side of the story. Months later, someone from Wikileaks harassed us in the middle of the night at a bar in Reykjavík for giving this controversial character a voice. When it later came out that Siggí was convicted for sexually assaulting a 17-year-old boy,

someone else yelled at us some more, claiming 'real' magazines would never interview a character like Siggí. Incidentally, Rolling Stone magazine featured an interview with him this month.

The cover of issue 11 may or may not still **11** be around on a wall in Vesturbær (it was at the time of writing). In the span of a few days, street artist Sara Riel created our cover, text and tags and all, which we then photographed and printed. The image is one she made for múm's 'Toothwheels,' the awesome first single off their 2013 LP, and the full size cover mural idea is borrowed from Philadelphia's wonderful Kurt Vile. The cover corresponded nicely with the feature article by Kirsten O'Brien, which covers the City's war on graffiti and the surrounding debate, along with interviews with múm and Sara Riel herself.

As a number of popular music venues in **12** town closed to make room for new hotels to accommodate the ever-increasing number of tourists, we thought it was high time to explore the pros and cons of this new reality. The cover image depicts a fictitious skyline with, yes, a few extra skyscrapers and hotels, but just imagine if we let the tourism industry grow as recklessly as we did the financial industry...

In anticipation of Emiliana Torrini's new **13** album, 'Tookah,' Editor-in-Chief Haukur S. Magnússon met with her to discuss her music, her lyrics, her life and times. Icelandophiles otherwise unacquainted with Emiliana's music have likely heard her track "Jungle Drum," which featured in an Inspired by Iceland video that went viral in 2010.

Following the release of Ragnar Axelsson's new book 'Behind The Mountains,' we thought we'd interview the man—better known as Rax—whose photos have featured prominently in the daily newspaper Morgunblaðið over the last few decades. Our summer journalist, Ingibjörg Björnsdóttir, chatted with him about his passion for documenting Icelandic nature and remote places in the Arctic, which he fears future generations won't be able to enjoy.

This issue marked the five-year anniversary of the financial crisis. **15** On the cover we tried to show a

pre and post-crash man with the message, "the more things change, the more they stay the same." We got a number of people, including former Prime Minister Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir, to reflect on the times. Jóhanna's contribution was her first public statement since the spring elections. We thought that was pretty neat.

Our annual Iceland Airwaves issue came **16** out with three covers this year. We picked three musicians and asked them each to pick another musician who they were excited about, and then we photographed them together at various Airwaves venues. As usual, we made a big pullout featuring all kinds of material related to the festival, including bigger interviews with the cover stars: composer Daniel Bjarnason (pictured with Margrét Rán Magnúsdóttir of Vök), Jófríður Ákadóttir of Samaris (pictured with Arnljótur Sigurðsson of Ojba Rasta) and Högni Egilsson of Hjaltalín (pictured with Steinunn Harðardóttir as DJ Flugvél og Geimskip).

Post-Airwaves, we thought it made sense **17** to make a "Hangover Issue." The feature article itself is about drug and alcohol rehab in Iceland, which is pretty fascinating from an American's perspective. In Iceland, it seems that everyone has either gone or knows somebody who has gone to inpatient drug or alcohol treatment. In fact, Iceland has the per capita record with 10% of all living males over the age of 15 having sought such treatment. How that came to be is a pretty remarkable story. After this issue came out, we received a phone call from an angry tour operator who was disgusted with our cover and the fact that we were making Icelanders out to be a bunch of alcoholics. That was probably the last really angry person who yelled at us last year.

Phew, the last issue of year! This feature was born out of a column written by Árni **18** Árnason, an Icelandic expat living in London who recently discovered that most of Iceland's classic Christmas songs had former lives as Italian love songs. The idea grew, the column was scrapped and Árni wound up doing an extensive interview with the legendary pop star responsible for this and a lot more. His name is Björgvin Halldórsson and that's him on the cover with the pasta and red wine.

fff.is

emidi.is

2014

FRANSKA KVIKMYNDAHÁTÍÐIN

FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

AT HÁSKÓLABÍÓI JANUARY 17TH-30TH 2014

af.is



INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS



græna
ljósid



New Year | Happy Birthday, Jesus

Mayor's Address

— By Jón Gnarr, Mayor of Reykjavík



□ Hörður Sveinsson

A total of 2014 years have now passed since Jesus was born in a barn in the town of Bethlehem, Palestine. This is why we celebrate New Year's Eve. Actually, archaeologists said that the town of Bethlehem is but one thousand years old. That does not matter in this context, however. This is a year-end annal, not a scholarly article in some boring journal of anthropological studies.

Little is known about Jesus anyway, except that for three or four years he walked around with a few guys and made all kinds of fuss about love, told various parables, performed a few miracles and got killed. Getting killed isn't an entirely unusual fate for those who like to talk a lot about love and that kind of stuff.

Jesus's birth occurred in a rather unusual manner; unknown stars twinkled in the sky and angels floated between houses and talked to people. Respected wise men showed up in town and an-

nounced that a great man was born. One would assume that any child born under such circumstances would have its youth documented by its parents, relatives and even the authorities. But it was not. There are no records of Jesus's youth. We know nothing of his first words or when he started walking. None of his childhood drawings have been preserved. We have no knowledge of how he matured or how he fared in school or in his day-to-day interactions. Nada. He just disappeared and wasn't

heard from in thirty years.

Then, he suddenly sprang forth and made a big racket. He started by turning lots of water into a most decent wine. Nobody knows for sure why he did that. It happened at a party in a town called Cana. And that town is probably best known for not existing. And he started talking and spouting all kinds of ideas about everything. He was really mad at some people, but really good to others, especially underdogs. He was angriest with those who bullied others through their authority or in the name of some religion or other. He said that no law or religious doctrine was above love. Love is all you need. And he also started curing people of all sorts of ailments using miracles: blind people, people with leprosy, paralysed people and others! He also drove away a few demons.

His best-known miracle is probably when he raised his friend Lazarus from the dead. He was so bummed out when he heard Lazarus had died that he just up and decided to raise him from the dead. Of course, Lazarus was like a zombie for the first few days after his resurrection, but he soon got better.

Jesus kept walking around and giving sermons. A lot of the sermons were kind of incoherent, but he was assertive and determined. And slowly, he amassed a group of followers. He picked twelve of them to be his assistants, and they travelled around with him and spent every waking moment by his side. They did not receive a salary, but he called them apostles. They were like interns. However, it doesn't seem like they learned a lot, as none of them wrote anything of their experiences or became famous for knowing Jesus.

His family thought he was crazy and wanted to lock him up. But his fans wouldn't hear of it! He had many good friends, but also a few powerful enemies. This inevitably happens when someone stands up to bullies. Then, when he started insinuating that he was the son of god, that insulted a lot of very religious people. When he then claimed that he was not only the son of god, but god itself, they had enough. He was arrested and crucified and killed.

One shouldn't talk a lot about matters that concern faith and religion. That usually ends badly. History has proven that. Indeed, faith is faith, not certainty, and cannot be refuted by logic—and least of all by a different form of faith. When people try that, that's when all hell breaks loose.

Even though Jesus had been killed, he soldiered on. He was unfazed by his death and continued talking and per-

forming miracles and such right up until the moment he ascended to the heavens right in front of his friends and followers.

Some people believe Jesus really existed. Others do not believe that. I think that maybe 70% of his story is exaggeration, misinterpretation or even pure fabrication. Maybe Jesus was a Chinese Taoist that arrived to Galilee via the Silk Route? Maybe he was a slave. I do not believe that he performed any miracles. I think it's likelier that he was gay. It maybe doesn't make a big difference. His story is still important. It is about a nobody who starts speaking up in a society that's controlled by bullies. And even though the bullies have, through the course of history, changed the story and falsified facts to make themselves look better, it still retains a core of truth. The story of Jesus is the story of the battle between good and evil. It is the same story as the one in 'Star Wars,' 'Matrix' or 'Lord of the Rings.' Jesus is as much of a Luke Skywalker as he is a Neo or Frodo.

The story is the story of the person and her conflicts with other persons and villains, but not the least her battle with herself. Perhaps not much has changed over the past 2014 years. The bullies are still in control, and Bethlehem is an occupied territory. All those who provoke the bullies' regime are mocked and crucified.

Just like the Terminator, Jesus promised, in the end, that he would be back. But unlike the Terminator, he hasn't made good on his word. Not yet. Or has he? Maybe he's back. Maybe he's in isolation in a US prison, a repressed woman in Saudi Arabia or under house arrest in China. Or maybe he's a persecuted homosexual in Russia.

Maybe Marilyn Monroe was Jesus? We took her, humiliated her, disgraced her and crucified her, to great applause. And then rewrote her history. We abused her and then turned her into a sex symbol. She suffered the same fate as Jesus—underdogs usually don't stand a chance outside of stories and movies. Frodo would have never prevailed in reality. The ring would have swallowed him whole, like it did Marilyn and Jesus, and Sauron would have ruled Middle Earth, as he does in most places.

Why do we always root for the underdog in fiction, but vote for the bullies in real life? I do not understand that. Maybe just because they are bullies and will bully us if we don't?

Here's hoping for a bully-free new year!

YEAR IN NEWS

by Larissa Kyzer

January

The year started with dubious predictions from the outside world—for one, that **Iceland was "a seething cauldron on the verge of going kablooney,"** (that from The New York Times), and for two, that **the country's economic woes were largely over** (that mad good reporting courtesy of the BBC). But there were some legitimately impressive Icelandic accomplishments. Namely, **Vilborg Arna Gissurardóttir became the first solo Icelander to reach the South Pole.**

February

You've heard of the boy named Sue? What about the girl named...girl? Fifteen-year-old **Blær Bjarkardóttir won the right to be recognized by her given name**, rather than the placeholder that had been on all her official documents since birth: "Stúlka," or "Girl." Her name had been rejected by the Naming Committee on the grounds that it was a boy's name. The Reykjavík District Court ruled this month in her favour.

March

With Easter afoot, chocolate company Núi-Sírius went into overdrive, producing **600,000 chocolate eggs** for the season. Spring also revealed a slightly more sinister craving in the countryside: hidden cameras discovered that **Icelandic sheep often prey on bird nests**, ravenously devouring whimbrel eggs. While carnivorous sheep have not (yet) seriously damaged Iceland's bird population, another species went extinct: **The Rare Icelandic Billionaire.** There had once been as many as six billionaires in Iceland, but as of March, "The Last Billionaire," Björgólfur Thor Björgólfsson, had relocated to the UK.

April

Parliamentary elections held this month ushered in quite a few changes. Prime Minister Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir and her party, the Social Democratic Alliance, were voted out of power and replaced by a **majority coalition government shared by The Progressive Party and The Independence Party**, led by Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson.

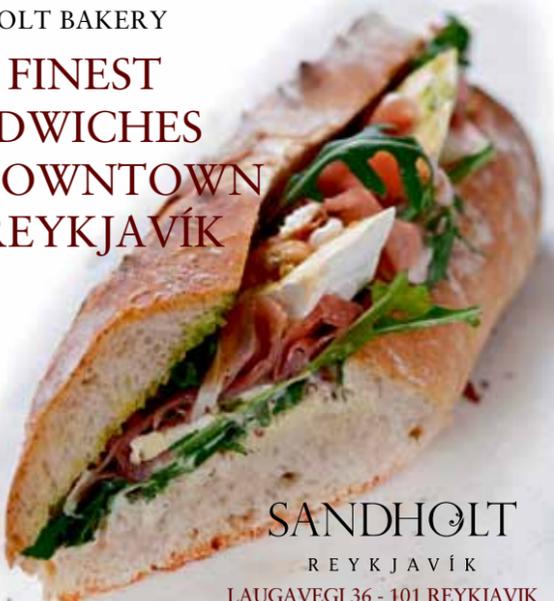
May

In May, not one, but two, Icelanders broke records scaling Mount Everest: **fifty-year-old Ingólfur Geir Gis-**

Continues over

SANDHOLT BAKERY

THE FINEST SANDWICHES IN DOWNTOWN OF REYKJAVÍK



SANDHOLT

REYKJAVÍK

LAUGAVEGI 36 - 101 REYKJAVÍK

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



Step into
the Viking Age

Reykjavík 871 ±2

Landnámssýningin
The Settlement
Exhibition

The exhibition and museum shop are open daily 10-17

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

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

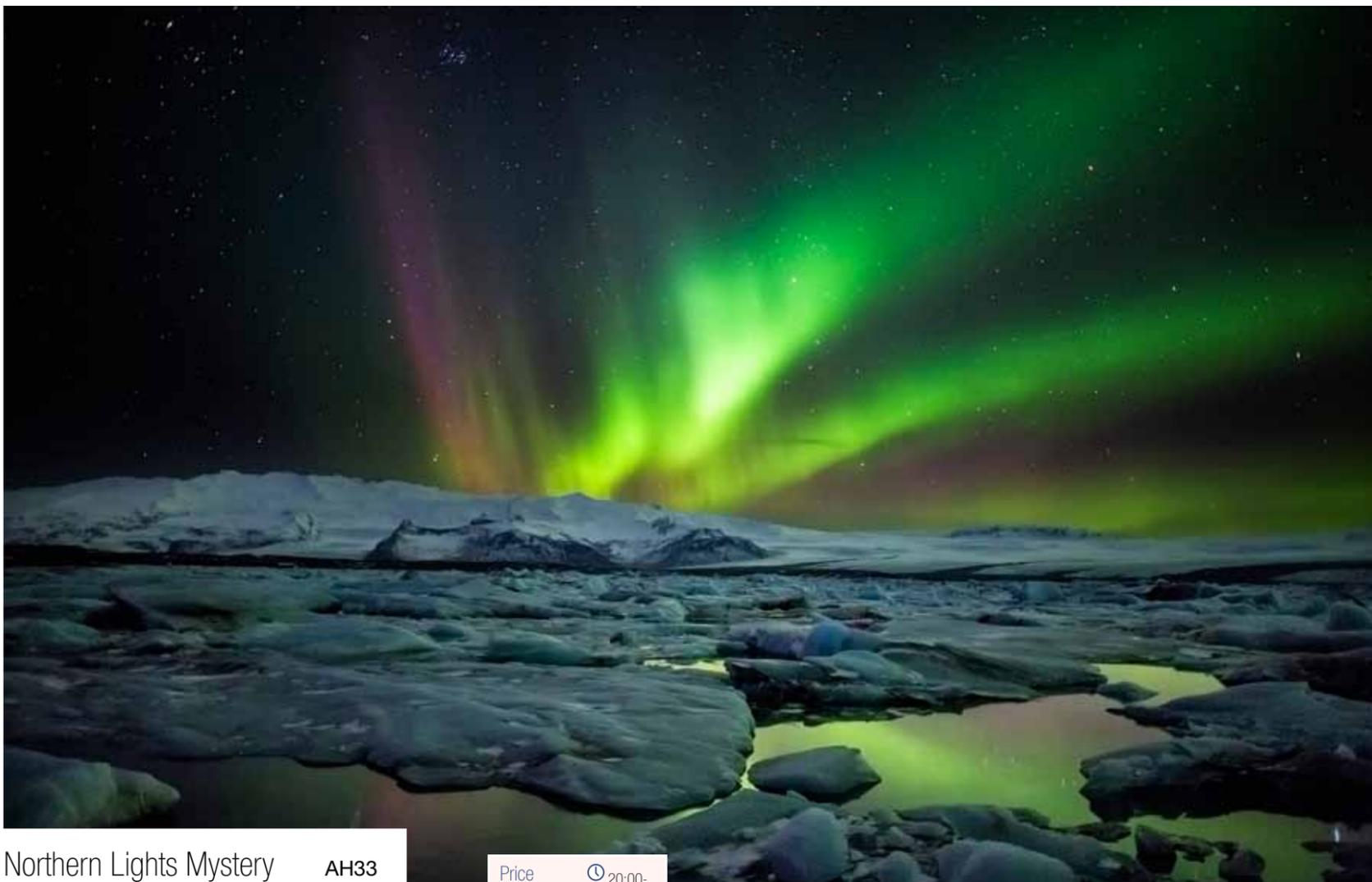
Multimedia techniques bring Reykjavík's past to life, providing visitors with insights into how people lived in the Viking Age, and what the Reykjavík environment looked like to the first settlers.



Reykjavík
City Museum



Icelandexcursions



Northern Lights Mystery

AH33

Price 5.400 ISK 20:00-01:00



The Golden Circle Classic

AH12

Price 9.500 ISK 08:30-17:00



South Coast, Waterfalls & Glacier Hike

AH34

Price 20.900 ISK 08:30-19:30

Travel to impress your friends



#Iceland Excursions



#GrayLine Iceland

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

Continued...

surarson, who became the oldest Icelander to climb Everest, and Leifur Örn Svavarsson, who became the first Icelander to scale the North ridge route.

May also saw the first murder of 2013 (Iceland averages two murders a year).

And woohoo! Iceland was on **The Simpsons**! Sigur Rós performed the theme tune! Björk blinked! There were lopapeysur and Northern Lights and elves!

June

SUMMER! Wait, not yet. There were 90 less hours of sunshine in Reykjavík in June than there had been for the last decade of Junes.

TV personality Sindri Sindrason and his husband announced that they adopted a daughter, Emílija Katrín, the previous year, making them the **first same-sex couple in Iceland to adopt a child**. Adoption for same-sex couples has been legal since 2006.

July

SUMMER! Nope, not yet. Not since 2002 had Reykjavík seen a colder, rainier July.

Ryan Gosling landed (Hey, Iceland), coming to our shores to **work with editor (and filmmaker) Valdís Óskarsdóttir** on his directorial debut, 'How to Catch a Monster.'

Six MPs put forth a proposal to grant whistleblower Edward Snowden Icelandic citizenship.

However, discussion was halted over summer, and later put to rest under US demands that Snowden be arrested and immediately extradited should he step foot in Iceland.

August

By August, it was official: **summer didn't make it to Iceland this year.**

August was 1.2 C degrees colder than it has been for ten years running, and it rained. A lot. We were sad. Gallup polls conducted this month showed that **the majority of Icelanders wanted to continue with EU accession talks.** Nevertheless, **Minister of Foreign Affairs Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson disbanded Iceland's negotiation committee to EU,** effectively halting an application which had been four years in the making.

Continues over

So What're These Elves I Keep Hearing About?

— by Kári Tulinius | Illustration by Megan Herbert

The long answer is that it has been reported by the Associated Press, and subsequently hundreds of media outlets around the world, that opposition to a proposed road in the Reykjavík suburb of Garðabær is driven by a belief that it will disturb areas Icelanders consider to be the elf homes. The short answer is: AAAAARGH! Oh hell no! Please no questions about goddamn elves!

Sorry, it's in the contract. Anybody who writes about Iceland in English has to write about elves.

I thought I signed up to write hard-hitting political commentary, but alright then. The thing is that the amount of time Icelanders spend thinking about elves is dwarfed by the amount non-Icelanders spend thinking about it. In Iceland elves are a bit like Morris dancing is in England: Nearly everyone has heard of it, but only a hardcore few give it much thought, and most people think it is only a myth.

Now that you mention it, I've never known anyone who's seen Morris dancing in person, only on TV.

It is true that belief in elves has a long history in Iceland, which is also the case in most of Northern Europe, with belief in fairies and other fey folk being common all over the British Isles, Germany and Scandinavia. But nobody has ever written an article about whether Autobahn construction has been halted in Schleswig-Holstein because someone thought they saw Der Erlkönig on the outskirts of Lübeck.

Don't surveys show that a majority of Icelanders believe in elves?

Sort of yes, sort of no. Surveys consistently show that Icelanders, when asked repeatedly by strangers on the phone who could be anyone, even crazed elf-worshippers, if they would completely rule out the existence of elves, a little bit more than half of respon-

dents will not discount the possibility outright. In a 2009 survey, only thirty-two percent felt comfortable discounting the idea that humanoid creatures lived inside rocks and were magic.

Which I suppose is much sillier than thinking that there's a big bearded man in the sky.

Bringing religion into this only confuses the issue. As Professor Terry Gunnell of the University of Iceland, an expert on this subject, explained in a 2009 interview with Danish newspaper Berlingske, Icelanders who believe in elves consider it wholly distinct from any religious belief. The Icelandic term for superstition, "hjátrú," is perhaps useful here as it literally means "side-belief."

So half of Iceland is in a relationship with God, but bangs an elf on the side?

Your point went astray there. Icelandic belief in elves is similar to the belief in UFOs. According to a survey last fall that the polling firm YouGov did for Huffington post: "48 percent of adults in the United States are open to the idea that alien spacecraft are observing our planet—and just 35 percent outright reject the idea."

Yeah, but only a small number of those Americans are true believers in UFOs.

And that is the case with Icelanders and elves too. According to a 2007 survey conducted by Profes-



sor Gunnell, only 8 percent of the population say they do believe in elves, so there are just a whole lot of fence-sitters who refuse to be pinned down on whether they do believe in elves or not. Though it is easy to suspect that the elf-agnostics are only a raised eyebrow away from saying they do not believe.

It's hard to say you believe in something when someone raises an eyebrow at you, especially when it's something you don't think much about.

And there you have the crux of the matter. Icelanders do not really think much about elves. It is something you learn about in school, but Icelanders more often encounter elves of the Tolkien-kind than the well-dressed, rock-dwelling, baby-snatching Icelandic type.

Wait.. baby-snatching?

Yes, Icelandic folklore is full of tales about changelings. Elf-women steal babies and replace them

with old, male elves who have been made to look like the stolen human baby by magical means. These kinds of stories exist all over northern Europe, from the British Isles to Scandinavia, even popping up as far south as Spain. Icelandic elves are not that different from other such mythological beings.

So, what about that road that's being protested against... does that have anything to do with elves?

No. The area has cultural value because Jóhannes Kjarval, Iceland's most important 20th Century visual artist, worked there a lot, painting lava rocks. And it has many beautiful areas and bird habitats, so it is also of natural value. The protests have nothing to do with elves. Please do not ask me about them again. Pretty please. With sugar on top.



Come ride with us



For further information check out our website www.ishestar.is, call +354 555 7000 or be our friend on Facebook.



For 30 years Íshestar has given people an opportunity to experience the Icelandic horse on long and short trips. Horses are our passion. Come ride with us in the beautiful surroundings of our Íshestar Riding Centre. You get free transport from all major hotels and guesthouses in the capital area.



Northern Lights Tours!



RE-62
Northern
Lights Tour



SRE-63
Glacier & Monster
Truck Adventure!



SRE-64
Warm Baths
& Cool Lights

EXPERIENCE A GREAT EVENING WITH US!

Free WiFi

Hotspot on board
our coaches.



More Tours available
in our brochures

AND ON OUR
WEBSITE
WWW.RE.IS



Book now
on your
smartphone!

OUR APP IS
FREE

You can easily buy your
tour with us now!



Available!

in the Android Play Store
& Apple App Store.

WE'LL TAKE YOU THERE!

ALL THE MOST EXCITING
PLACES IN ICELAND

BOOK NOW



on www.re.is



by calling 580 5400



at your reception

RE-04 The Golden Circle	RE-24 Gullfoss, Geysir & Þingvellir - Afternoon Tour	SRE-74 The Golden Circle & Fontana Wellness	RE-17 The Wonders of Snæfellsnes	RE-05 Reykjavík Grand Excursion - City Tour	RE-15 South Shore Adventure	SRE-44 Gullfoss, Geysir & Langjökull Snowmobiling

RELAX AT the Blue Lagoon

From KEF Airport
to Blue Lagoon

09:15, 11:15, 12:45,
16:15 & 17:15.

From Blue Lagoon
to KEF Airport

12:15 & 14:15.

From Reykjavik
to Blue Lagoon

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

From Blue Lagoon
to Reykjavik

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

Bus fare to the
Blue Lagoon
& admission

Duration: Flexible.

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

Pick up: Up to 30 minutes
before departure.

Adults (+16)

PRICE 8900 ISK

14-15 years

PRICE 4450 ISK

0-13 years

FREE OF
CHARGE

flybus

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

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



BOOK NOW



on www.re.is



by calling 580 5400



at your reception



For our flexible
schedule scan
the QR code



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



Reykjavik
Excursions
KYNNISFERÐIR

News | Brief

The News Is Getting Briefer

2013: Record layoffs at Iceland's National Broadcasting Service

— By Tómas Gabríel Benjamin



On any given weekend, Icelandic children are likely to gather around their television set at seven in the morning to watch 'Small Potatoes' and 'The Moomins' on RÚV, while their parents get up and make breakfast, listening to music from centuries past on the 'Girni, grúsk og glóríur' show on RÚV's radio station Rás 1.

During the week, people tune in to Rás 1 to listen to programmes about the arts, culture and social issues, to Rás 2 for news, current affairs and pop and rock music, and to RÚV for a variety of domestic and international shows, sports events, news and films. But with recent cuts to the service's budget, RÚV's programming is sure to change.

Thirty-nine employees of Iceland's National Broadcasting Service, RÚV, were fired on the spot on November 27, and 21 more people lost their jobs in the following weeks. Those laid off immediately were not given the option of working through their notice period and could not even access their email to alert their colleagues they had been made redundant.

This marks the biggest round of layoffs since RÚV was founded in 1930, bringing its total number of staff down to 240 from 342 in 2009. This may jeopardise RÚV's mission to "promote the Icelandic language, Icelandic history, and Iceland's cultural heritage" and "honour basic democratic rules, human rights, and the freedom of speech and opinion," according to its charter.

RÚV is to Icelanders what the BBC is to the UK and NPR is to the US—a government-funded source of entertainment, culture and dependable news. Through its radio stations and TV station, RÚV has broadcast numerous historical moments such as Halldór Laxness accepting the Nobel prize for literature in 1955, the 1969 lunar landing, and the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the 2008–2009 Icelandic riots.

The Cost Of A Balanced Budget

The Director of RÚV, Páll Magnúson, preemptively laid employees off in order to meet 500 million ISK worth of cuts to the organisation suggested in the government's 2014 budget proposal, which also includes cuts to the Icelandic Film Fund and the National Hospital. The cuts, which equal a tenth of RÚV's budget, were alluded to in August by Vigdís Hauksdóttir, MP for the Progressive Party

and the chair of the budget committee, who had recently been misquoted by RÚV. "I think an unnatural amount of money goes to RÚV," she said, "especially when they don't do a better job of reporting the news."

Páll started his layoffs from the bottom up to, he said, to deliver the best service possible with the funds available. This meant focusing on firing low- to mid-level employees, with Rás 1 taking the biggest hit, losing half of its staff and most of its music programmes. Overall, at least 14 programmes have been discontinued and replaced with archival material.

A Wave Of Protests

More than 400 people protested the layoffs outside of RÚV's office the day after they were announced, claiming these dismissals were premature, politically fuelled, and hollowing out a communally-owned organisation that plays an important role in Icelandic society.

These points were echoed by a flash mob which gathered at the Smáralind shopping centre and sang "Heyr, himna smiður," a choir song commonly heard at funerals, and were also reiterated in several Youtube videos that featured musicians, artists and celebrities speaking about RÚV's importance in both their personal upbringing and the cultural development of the nation.

Ingi Þór Ingibergsson, one of the technicians who was fired, made a statement during his last radio broadcast by playing Johnny Paycheck's song "Take This Job And Shove It."

Brynhildur Björnsdóttir, who works at Rás 1, will be let go in February and is uncertain what she'll do after that. Her show, 'Leynifélagið,' ("The Secret Society") is the only children's radio show currently broadcast by RÚV, and she said teachers regularly play it during the children's lunch break. "Listening to radio stimulates children's imagination in a way that television can't," she said. "It helps them become more proficient in Icelandic and better prepared to speak their mind clearly."

Guðfinnur Sigurvinsson, who had

worked at RÚV for a little under ten years and was sacked from Rás 2's current affairs programme 'Síðdegisútgáfa,' was not happy with Páll's layoff methodology. "I think it was disgraceful how some of the most experienced members of staff were selected to be fired," he said, "but I wouldn't wish it upon anyone else. I do question why so many people from the news teams have been let go, but not a single person from the marketing or advertising departments. I believe we should re-evaluate how big those departments need to be, and in general, if RÚV should be competing with private channels with entertainment shows."

Guðfinnur is working on a Master's degree in public administration, and dove straight into his exams when he was made redundant. He said he doesn't harbour any hard feelings over being fired. "Of course it's terrible to pack your bags and walk out the door when you've worked somewhere for so long that it doesn't feel like work. It's your second home and the people you work with become a very rich part of your life. I'm very thankful for the time I've spent with them," he said.

"I've been touched with all the messages of support I've gotten from strangers since getting fired. Almost everywhere I turn people say how much they care about the radio."

Þórir Ingvarson, an RÚV technician, added: "People who you had worked with for years and practically considered family were suddenly gone. It was stressful, but we have to try to make do. We had already gone through numerous cost-saving measures in years past, so at this point, cuts inevitably mean layoffs."

Páll's Defence

Páll appeared on the Kastljós talk show the day after the cuts were announced, defending the layoffs. He said that it was naïve, however, to expect anything other than mass redundancies with 500 million ISK in cuts to RÚV. "Two lines in the financial budget can easily turn into 39 immediate layoffs," he said. He also rejected the idea that firing the staff had been a charade to deter the government from

further cuts down the line.

"The people on the news team talk about the importance of informing society and promoting democracy, the staff at RÁS 1 talk of upholding culture," Páll said, "but our charter binds us to do all of it—inform, educate and entertain." Thus he defended his decision to fire staff from the music, cultural and news departments while allowing entertainment and game shows that compete with shows from private commercial channels such as Stöð 2 and Skjár 1 to stay on the air.

He did not believe that reducing the wages of managerial staff as had been done in 2008 would have had any demonstrable effect on the layoffs. "It might be symbolic," he said, "but to me, it's just farcical and I don't buy the argument behind it." The combined salaries of the top eleven executives amount to 115 million ISK per year.

Páll embarked on the layoffs after speaking to numerous MPs and ministers, feeling certain that the government's proposed cuts would not change prior to the budget's approval. "I'm hoping that after people have seen the measures we've had to take to react to the proposed state budget as it is today," he said, "that they will not take additional funds from us."

Controversy Abounds

Since the layoffs there have been heated discussions in parliament, with the government trying to save face by reducing the cuts in following drafts of the state budget. The Minister of Education, Science and Culture Illugi Gunnarsson said that "RÚV's board is responsible for running the organisation," but refused to comment in particular about the mass layoffs.

Two members of RÚV's board, Pétur Gunnarsson and Björg Eva Erlendsdóttir, voted against Páll's proposed measures, with Björg stating that they were too vague when presented to the board. "The proposal did not, for example, mention the method by which people would be fired or how it would affect the programming," she said.

When the reality of the budget became apparent, Pétur and Björg thought too much internal production had been cut, in particular material relating to RÚV's charter. "At the same time that cultural and musical programmes were dropped, a gambling show has been allowed to keep running on Saturdays," she said. "We feel the focus was completely wrong and that the measures the board agreed to were not the ones implemented."

On December 17, Páll resigned as the director, citing a lack of trust from RÚV's board. Although some critics rejoiced at this turn of events, it has left the ship sailing in turbulent waters without a captain.

Going forward, it's unclear whether RÚV will be capable of honouring its charter. Páll himself said that RÚV has already become at least 25% less capable of doing so since the crisis in 2008. The charter is up for review in the New Year, and only time will tell whether and how it changes, and what effect it will have on the services RÚV provides.

2013

YEAR IN NEWS

September

Prime Minister Sigmundur Davíð met US President Barack Obama on the latter's way to the G20 Summit. The PM later referred to Obama as "really likable," although that might just be because **Obama didn't laugh (too much) at his mismatched shoes.** Yep, our prime minister met Obama wearing one black Nike trainer and one dress shoe. (Reports were later issued that there had been a medical reason for the gaffe, but perhaps it was just SD expressing a little sartorial sass.)

October

Minister of Finance Bjarni Benediktsson unveiled the 2014 **budget proposal**, which a lot of people really hated.

November

November was a big news month in Iceland, but not much of it was good. For one, **Tony Omos, a Nigerian asylum seeker went into hiding under threat of deportation** and separation from his girlfriend and unborn child. His disappearance was undoubtedly motivated by (mis)information about Tony's involvement in a human trafficking case which was likely leaked to the media by an employee of the Ministry of the Interior. (Shortly after, Tony turned himself in and was deported on December 19.)

It wasn't a good month for privacy: over 70,000 Vodafone customers (including MPs and government ministers) were shocked that following a website breach, their passwords, text messages, and personal information had been published online. **This attack was officially the largest cyber attack in Iceland.**

To add insult to injury, Iceland's national team **failed to qualify** for the World Cup.

December

December began with a very sad first in Icelandic history when police shot and killed a man.

In other, better, news, Prime Minister Sigmundur Davíð **introduced the long-touted debt relief package or, if you prefer more cheery terminology, "the debt jubilee,"** which will cancel household debt. The jubilee incurred mixed reactions: the IMF mission chief in Iceland referred to it as "ill-advised," while the credit rating agency Moody's gave it the thumbs up. Only time will tell, we suppose.

Yes, we're still picking up the pieces after the crash in 2008, and part of that (wait for it) is sentencing bank executives to prison time (GASP!). Yes, in December, **four executives of Kaupthing bank were sentenced** to anywhere between three and a half and five years of prison time for financial crimes dating back to 2008. All four men are expected to appeal their sentences to the Supreme Court.

Elsewhere, two Icelanders split a record high lottery jackpot in December, each winning 70 million ISK. **Artist Ragnar Kjartansson sold his much-lauded video installation piece, 'The Visitors,' to New York's Museum of Modern Art and the Migros Museum in Zurich**, among others. RÚV director Páll Magnúson resigned from his position, citing a lack of trust after his November layoff decision, and CNN reminded us all that Reykjavík is a damn fine place to spend the holidays.

Cue the collective sigh of relief; it's time for a New Year.

SKY

LOUNGE & BAR
CENTERHOTEL ARNARHVOLL

Enjoy our wide variety of
feature cocktails inspired by the
panoramic view from SKY.

Happy hour between
17:00 - 19:00 every day

Large beer isk 500

Glass of house Wine isk 800

Top floor CenterHotel Arnarhvoll
Ingólfsstræti 1 • 101 Reykjavík
e-mail: sky@centerhotels.com
www.centerhotels.com/sky
Tel: 595 8545

Open from 17:00 til midnight.



STAY IN THE CENTER

five first class hotels
in the ♥ of Reykjavík



CENTERHOTEL
PLAZA

CENTERHOTEL
ARNARHVOLL

SKY
LOUNGE & BAR

CENTERHOTEL
PINGHOLT

ÍSAFOLD
LOUNGE & BAR

CENTERHOTEL
KLÖPP

CENTERHOTEL
SKJALDBREIÐ



CENTER
HOTELS

reservations@centerhotels.com | tel +354 595 8500 | www.centerhotels.com



Perfect
setting to view
the Northern lights
in downtown
Reykjavík!

WELCOME TO SMÁRALIND

ICELAND'S LARGEST
SHOPPING CENTER!



 SMÁRALIND

OPEN: WEEKDAYS 11-19 THURSDAYS 11-21 SATURDAYS 11-18 SUNDAYS 13-18 SMARALIND.IS FIND US ON 

Tourist Of The Year 2013

The Glacial Picnickers

Text by Anna Andersen



a full ten meters from shore. Had there been another strong blast of wind (not unlikely in Iceland, as we know), they may have actually capsized, but luck was with them and they were rescued, perhaps a bit sheepish, but none the worse for wear.

For their blithe (and truly American) optimism, for their delightful dedication to meals al fresco, for their woeful misunderstanding of the dangers inherent in Icelandic nature, for their presence of mind when disaster struck, and for sheer ridiculousness: I nominate the Glacial Picnickers for Tourists of the Year.

Picking them was easy but, unlike last year's winner—who we never found because she apparently went back into incognito-mode as soon as the search for her was called off—we actually had to track these people down to award them their plane tickets and hotel voucher (as it was an official contest and all).

The chances of finding them were pretty slim considering how many Americans visit us every summer. Realistically speaking, our chances were slim to none, that is, unless they weren't really American tourists and some of them had actually spent a good chunk of time here. If that were the case, they would probably have fessed up to their friends who would probably be our friends too because, well, this is Iceland.

And just our luck (or theirs!), that was precisely the case. No sooner had we posted a link to the entry on Facebook than one of our friends (and incidentally writers) revealed to us that these people had been erroneously identified as American tourists. He put us in touch with one of them who agreed to speak to us as long as we agreed to keep their identities secret, as they were (rightfully) pretty embarrassed.

It turns out, the story that made headlines all over the world had a few factual errors in it. The Glacial Picnickers were actually a group of five—two Americans (one of whom had lived in Iceland for a couple of years), two Germans (both of whom were just visiting) and one Irish person (who is a student at the University of Iceland and has been in the country for five years).

How On Earth?

So you're probably wondering what we were wondering: How on Earth did this happen?

"Let's just say there were a few photographers amongst us," the Irish one told me over Skype. "We were on a camping trip, wandering around, joking about how we could camp on an iceberg. Then we saw one a metre away from the shore and we started taking photos of ourselves on it. One guy in the group then suggested we could have lunch on it and make a time-lapse series of photos."

So they set up their picnic table and started eating, apparently ignoring the camera that was all the while shooting photos from the shore. Not until they finished eating, she told me, did they realise that their camera (and the shore) looked considerably further away than it did when they started.

Realising that the iceberg wasn't about to float back, the trained lifeguard in the group decided to swim to shore to get some rope, but he was so cold that he couldn't come back for them (it is a glacial lagoon after all). The iceberg had drifted 10 metres from shore at that point, and they all agreed that it would be best for him to call for some help.

"Luckily one of us had left our phone on shore, so he could call, and eventually the Iceland rescue team came with a zodiac and picked us up," she said. "Apparently icebergs can flip over unexpectedly. It's actually pretty dangerous, but we didn't know that until later."

So there you have it: the story behind the tourists who were rescued from an iceberg after they lost control of their picnic. The photos that they sent us from their own rescue were a bonus to this already hilarious story. We can't look at them and not smile. And we sort of don't blame them for not wanting to reveal their identities.

Their Prize: Plane tickets for two with Icelandair, plus hotel accommodation at Reykjavík Hótel Marina for three nights

Runners-Up:

The following three tourists were strong contenders and we would give them plane tickets and hotel vouchers if we could, but we can't. We can, however, give them GRAPEVINE T-SHIRTS! And that's what we're going to do.

Tony Pandola From The States



Tony's entry was sincere without being cheesy (lots of cheese was thrown around in these) and it gets bonus points for being by far the best piece of writing in the batch (Tony, if you want to write for us, drop us a line!). Here's an excerpted version of his entry:

"...When I reflect on our two weeks in Iceland, a lot of things come to mind. There are the funny moments: like when we were parked on the side of the road and that horse stuck its massive head into the driver's side window of our car to probe for snacks and startled the hell out of me (much to the gut-lauding delight of my girl); or the time I lost my flip flop in the mud when we were searching for that hot spring, and I reached in shoulder-deep to retrieve it, only to come up with someone else's. There are the people we met: like Bói, the warm and friendly man who runs the Höfn airport—our flight was delayed and he treated us to an impromptu lesson on the history of Icelandic aviation, complete with personal stories and photos from his private collection; or Kristín and her mother who run that café in Arnarstapi, the ones who gave us the key to their place in case we got too cold camping that night—we had only popped in to see if they could help me decipher the Icelandic cell phone message I was getting, and we ended up engaged in conversation with them until well into the night, all of us learning a lot more about life in Iceland and the United States. And then, of course, there's the natural splendor of the country, too grand to describe. I think of all the glaciers of the Vatnajökull icecap and how comparing them to that crystal clear piece of glacial ice I held in the palm of my hand was a beautiful and necessary reminder that there is no such thing as big or small in this world, only an infinite and subjective spectrum of scale.

But perhaps the most appropriate story from our time in Iceland to share here is a memory from the very beginning of our trip—the first day of what was supposed to be a five-day trek from the highlands to the coast. It was only a moment, but it's a good glimpse into how we approached our fifteen days of travel in the country. The weather had turned terrible (as it does) and somehow seemed to be getting worse (as it also does), and we were somewhere around half-way between where we'd come from and where we were heading.

My girlfriend was squinting through the freezing rain as it pelted her face, and shouting to me over the wind, "What do we do now?"

"Just keep picking up litter!" I shouted back, one hand on her backpack to keep her from blowing away, the other still clutching the apple core I'd picked up half an hour ago. You see, we were still just getting acquainted with Iceland then, and I figured it was just testing us. It had no reason to bother gracing us with sunshine and scenery yet. We had to show it some respect first. We had to earn it. "Eventually it has to work!" I yelled with a laugh. "You okay?"

She smiled back at me. "Nobody told me ICE-land would be so cold!" she joked, and we both began to laugh, pushing our way forward through the storm, stumbling a few steps sideways here and there whenever the wind felt like making us.

What makes a good tourist? Or in this case, the "Tourist of the Year"? Well, to me, it's a lot of things: It's surrendering completely to the reality of the place

For our second annual 'Tourist of the Year' award, we teamed up with Promote Iceland to make it a real contest with a real prize this time around. To that end, we created a website where tourists could submit their stories for a chance to win two plane tickets to Iceland plus hotel accommodation.

All in all, we received more than 500 entries. Not all of them qualified, as it was imperative to have visited Iceland in 2013. And not all of them were that compelling: telling us that you visited the Blue Lagoon and "fell in love" with the country is hardly original. But some of the entries were actually pretty good, and one stood out as a clear winner.

Much like last year's winner—the woman who "found herself" many hours after being reported "lost" in the highlands due to a bus driver's poor counting skills—this year's winner also happened to make headlines all over the world (note: this was not a requirement).

Perhaps you recall some of these: "American tourists having picnic on Iceland glacier rescued after it becomes iceberg and floats away - with them on it," "Tourists in Iceland rescued after picnic on iceberg goes wrong," "Idiot's try to eat dinner on iceberg, get blown out to sea..."

The Glacial Picnickers

Indeed, we picked "The Glacial Picnickers," as they were dubbed by whoever nominated them. Here it is, the winning entry, submitted on November 29:

In May 2013, a quartet of American tourists traveled out to Fjallsárlón, a somewhat lesser-known glacial lagoon along the Southeast coast of Iceland, and decided to have themselves a truly memorable picnic. And not just in sight of the stunning lagoon—in it. On an ice floe, to be precise, because: awesome. They were prepared for quite a feast—brought folding chairs, a table, and a cooler—but got more than they bargained for when a strong gust of wind cracked the ice away from shore and started it drifting.

Now, safe though it is to say that these intrepid travelers had maybe not thought this plan fully through, one of them nevertheless had the presence of mind to call search and rescue before losing their phone signal. They kept their composure, and waited. When the first rescue boat arrived, the picnickers had drifted

you came to experience, instead of wishing it were more like the place you came from. It's the wisdom to know what's out of your control (like the weather) and what's absolutely within it (like your attitude). It's smiling and saying hello to the hut warden, asking her name and where she comes from, before asking her tomorrow's forecast. It's realizing that minor annoyances like flight delays are opportunities for unexpected pleasures and making new friends. It's setting a good example for other travelers, sharing knowledge and space in your Sadcar with every hitchhiker you pass—even if it means taking down the makeshift clothesline across the backseat where you're trying to dry your rain-soaked hiking gear. It's leaving no trace and picking up after others in a place where negative human impact can be so obvious on the biggest and smallest of scales; from a discarded candy bar wrapper to a melting icecap. It's keeping your mind open enough to consider cultural and economic realities when faced with the slaughtered whale you see washed up on the beach, but also keeping your heart open enough to still struggle with the emotional and environmental impact of it. It's knowing when to forget about the camera and just be completely present and in the moment. It's the foresight to see that the most uncomfortable or unfortunate situations you find yourself in will soon be your favorite stories to relive. It's the hardiness to push on when it's time to push on, and the flexibility to change plans when it's time to change plans. It's showing resilience when things don't go your way, and expressing gratitude when they do. It's dancing and hollering with joy under the sun while you're still wet and shivering from the storm that just passed. It's recognizing that a place doesn't owe you anything simply because you worked hard, saved your money and bought a plane ticket. It's the willingness to pay it forward by arriving with a respectful attitude for that place and its people—who've been there long before you came, and will remain long after you go—in hopes that you might be deemed worthy of the best it has to offer..."

Ryan Gosling



Oh god. Ryan Gosling. Ryan. Ryyyyyyaaaaan. Dear Ryan. How do we love thee. Let us count the ways. One, one-thousand. Two, one-thousand. Three, one-thousand. Four, one-thousand. Five, one-thousand. Six, one-thousand...

Please come back. We'll play patty cake with you ANY TIME.

Laura Borchert from The States



After dreaming about "visiting the homeland of Björk" for 12 years, she finally made it happen for her 30th birthday last year. And, what do you know, she ran into Björk:

"...We were seated behind her table and I couldn't believe the odds. I decided not to approach her and was happy with the moment as it was. Right as dessert was served, the fireworks started. I ran outside to get a better look but couldn't see anything. I then heard a voice next to me say, "Don't you love when you can hear the fireworks, but can't see them?" It was Björk and her daughter. We stood around and chatted about fireworks – having a great time. She then asked if I would like to join her down the street for a better look. OF COURSE! Running through the streets of Reykjavik with Björk and her daughter to get a better look at fireworks is something I never would have thought could happen. My trip was complete. After the fireworks ended I thanked her and finished my dessert. I still had 3 days left in the city and realized this place just doesn't disappoint – and I can't wait for what's left..."

From a local's perspective, this maybe isn't as wild as it seems from the outside, but we can appreciate that it was completely out of this world for her. Laura, we wish you all the best in 2014!

Honourable Mentions

Shout outs to some of our favourite submissions for Tourist of the Year 2013

—Alex Baumhardt

Shout out to the number of submitters who touted their having gotten naked in the wildness of Iceland as their unique, 'Tourist of the Year'-winning quality (we're looking at you Laveleye Arnaud from Belgium). But you didn't even send a photo! How can we believe you? Pics or it didn't happen...

Shout out to the submissions we received written entirely in French (Marie-Christine From France, KRATZ From France, DEMONT from France...). Sadly, at Grapevine our French proficiency ranges from spotty conversational to just a few helpful pick-up lines. To be fair, just over 3% of the world's population speaks French, but trying French at an English-language magazine in Iceland certainly was optimistic, and we like it! Omelette de fromage!

Shout out to the many Americans who couldn't find any synonyms for "awesome."

Shout out to all of the tourists who discovered the Blue Lagoon.

Shout out to the submissions that turned the "why tourist of the year?" question back at us into a "why not?" Our next contest prompt will be: "Should you rub your legs in herring and jump into the North Atlantic with open wounds and a silver swimsuit?" Looking forward to your entries!

Shout out to everyone that reminded us that you can see the Northern Lights from Iceland.

Shout out to the person from "Potugal" who wrote that if she was chosen as Tourist Of the Year, she would start a travel blog. We hope by then she has perfected the spelling of her home country.



Shout out to Adam Ziegenhals from United States who wrote "Hark all ye within eyeshot!" Adam said that if chosen, he would "Nord out" eating "every hot dog," stacking "every elf stone" and that he would even film a half-assed music video of the trip to present to the Icelandic people. Hark Adam! We have enough of those...



Shout out to Ganley from USA who entered as a hedgehog and included a photo of a stuffed hedgehog. We're glad you road-tripped the Golden Circle, but should you even be driving?



Shout out to all of the 'Tourist of the Year' submitters who claimed – "but really, I'm not a 'tourist.'" Megan Scala from United States wrote that, "The word 'tourist' flashes in my mind like a panic attack." For your own health, we felt the title of Tourist Of the Year would have been the straw that broke the camels back. Or your back.



Furthermore, Erik-Jan Vens from the Netherlands wrote "No. I should not be Tourist of the Year. I really shouldn't. Call me anything else but not that." Erik-Jan, we'll honor your wishes.



Shout out to Thomas from Australia who claimed he should be Tourist Of the Year because he has, "the incredible luck of being a filmmaker and a 22-year-old male." Man, we know in this rough-and-tumble-world it's not always easy being a 22-year-old, white male from a wealthy, Western nation. We almost thought, "he's really earned this!" and then we thought, "what the fuck?"

Shout out to Auliya Nur Amalina from Indonesia, who wrote that we should gift her Tourist of the Year for graduating high school and getting accepted into a college. We're proud of you girl, and we're sorry this didn't work out, but graduation really doesn't get much better than listening to Green Day's "Wake Me Up When September Ends" on repeat for a week right?

Shout out to William Shearer from UK who wrote in with a single line: "Because I really, really need a holiday." We feel for you, mate.



Shout out to Doreen Darr from USA who said that, as Tourist Of the Year, she would come outfitted in a white sun visor, "fanny pack w/water bottle hangin' on the side," backpack with sun tan lotion, bikini and a smile. We have reason to believe Doreen was actually trying to win a trip to Disney World and that she found our website by accident.



Shout out to Martijn from The Netherlands who confided that his girlfriend is working in Iceland and he hasn't seen her in awhile and he misses her a lot and it's really expensive to visit and...



Shout out to Ana María Iriarte from Colombia who met her Icelandic guy on an online dating website. They've been together virtually for eight months, "[It] is so hard [when you] don't hold or kiss someone you love, because I can tell pretty sure that I LOVE that man, he is so sweet and kind with me and I can say I finally found the love," Ana María says. Sounds deep, but heads up Icelandic man, she's already talking marriage and kids—at least to us...



Shout out to Elena Cazzola from Italy who said a tribe of prophetic elves told her she would win. At the moment, Grapevine has no elves on staff.

Shout out to everyone who nominated their kid(s) as Tourist Of the Year. Too bad we read right through this seemingly 'selfless' act and we're a bunch of child eating trolls.



Shout out to Pooja from India who began her entry with: "I didn't want to travel to Iceland and thanks to a bout of hepatitis, the plan came so close to getting called off."

Shout out to the large number of people who skipped over the only submission guideline for tourist of the year—that you have to have visited Iceland in the last year to enter. We really hope that someday you make it here so you can legitimately enter the contest and feel the soft touch of a copy of The Grapevine in your hands.

Shout out to Pat Wheeler from USA who virtually spit on the single guideline of our contest (that you have to have visited Iceland over the past year). Words like "bummer," "big disappointment" and "complaint" were thrown around, but you'll never get us Pat Wheeler!!!

Welcome To The Grapevine's Second Ever Annual Music Awards, Ever!

Text by John Rogers

Here at Reykjavík Grapevine we love little more than chit-chatting and shit-shooting about Icelandic music. There's rarely a moment in the office when there isn't some new album or other on the stereo, or playing in the headphones of the various people who bring you this fine paper as their keyboards rattle away.

We try to listen to most of the albums that come out, and review as many as possible to let you know about them. The Grapevine team, with some international reinforcements, cover every single show of the Iceland Airwaves Festival each year, and we send writers and photographers all around the country to document the myriad smaller events that make up Iceland's thriving festival calendar.

So, it makes sense that we should celebrate the best music to come out of Iceland over the last year with The Reykjavík Grapevine music awards. It's not like the Oscars or anything—there's no red carpet ceremony (there

is a kick ass party for the victors and their friends, though)—but each winner gets something nice, be it a meal in a fancy restaurant, a day-trip into the countryside, or a night in a nice hotel.

It's our way of saying a little thank you in recognition of all the entertainment, inspiration and food for thought and conversation that musicians bring to the inhabitants of our chilly northern isle.

Just like last year, you should feel free to fret and disagree with our panel. You could even write us a letter telling us why (again: if it's not an asshole letter, we promise to print it and everything).

Album Of The Year: Sin Fang—Flowers



-As a thank you for making ALBUM OF THE YEAR, we teamed up with Hótel Búðir to get Sin Fang a free night of rest and relaxation at the wonderful retreat.

One of the most hotly contested categories for the music awards was, of course, best album. The year 2013 saw new releases from Sigur Rós and múm, an album each from musical relatives Ólöf and Ólafur Arnalds, and career-high LPs from homeland favourites like Mammút, Snorri Helgason, Lay Low and Bloodgroup. From the artistically-minded edges came a genre-bending record from avant-garde stalwarts Ghostigital and a dazzling mashed-up debut from DJ Flugvél og geimskip.

So, where to start? It's a subjective matter pitting albums against each other, especially when they differ so widely in their processes, aesthetics and aims. The panel took many factors into account. Was this LP a real step up from the artist in question, or a brave creative leap? Did it push forward the album format as a whole, with a sense of artistic coherence stretching beyond the music itself? And did our winner seem like it could stand the test of time?

Of all the fine contenders, one stood

head and shoulders above the rest in fulfilling arguably all of these criteria. "Sin Fang really stepped up his career with 'Flowers,'" remarked our panel. Sindri Már's interpretation of himself through this album comes from the artwork and visuals, performances and lyrics alike, forming a complete aesthetic. With this record Sin Fang becomes more of a cohesive package than ever. "Flowers" is a self-contained world, and an all-round pleasure to listen to, to own and hold, and to see played live—it's like the iPad of albums."

The production values, consistency, songwriting and all-around musical enjoyment factor all came into the equation.

"Flowers" was unanimously loved by our panel as a truly well-crafted album, and so it wins the Reykjavík Grapevine's album of the year award.

(Album of 2012: Hjaltalín—Enter IV)

Song Of The Year: Sin Fang—Young Boys



-As a thank you for making the best song of 2013, we teamed up with the enduringly great Tapas Barinn to invite Sin Fang to a luxurious dinner party for eight at the restaurant.

With one of Iceland's favourite radio DJs on our panel, we had a wealth of knowledge on hand about which Icelandic songs have proved enduringly popular over the last twelve months. So, after we had a list of initial nominations, he whipped up a Spotify playlist of the main contenders.

The year 2013 saw plenty of big Icelandic singles, with Sigur Rós, múm, Bloodgroup, Mammút, Prinspóló and Tilbury receiving mentions from our panel for "Brennisteinn," "Tooth-

wheels," "Salt," "Fall," "TippTopp" and "Turbulence" respectively.

After listening through all the suggestions, the winner was undeniable. "Sin Fang's 'Young Boys' is just a beautifully written song," said our panel. "It crossed a lot of borders and gained the project a whole new fan base."

"It's a strong pop song with an alternative edge in the sound that makes it interesting," the panel further remarked, singling out the track for its memorable production.

"All those chopped-up vocals, micro-beats, jingling bells, and the textural layers make it very rich. But it's still a really anthemic single—an all-round timeless, joyful song that never seems to get old. It is truly the song of the year 2013."

(Song of 2012: Moses Hightower—Háa C)

Most Overlooked Album: múm—Smilewound



As a thank you for making a wonderful record in "Smilewound," we teamed up with our two-time best goddamn restaurant SNAPS to invite múm to a luxurious dinner party for eight at the restaurant.

The "Most Overlooked" category might seem like an invitation to shine a light onto a little-known band, but after discussing a variety of artists the panel decided it was one of Iceland's longest-running collectives that had fallen under the radar in 2013.

"Múm's new LP 'Smilewound' was barely covered in Iceland upon its release," said the panel, with one member remarking: "I've barely heard an Icelandic person mention the album. I myself was ordered to listen to it by a friend, and I was very pleasantly surprised."

The album was hailed as a welcome return to form. "They've found their feet again after a couple of hit and miss al-

bums, which maybe explains the lack of excitement for this one in the press. But 'Smilewound' is a beautiful album with great arrangements and wonderful layered vocals. It's a cohesive album, and surprisingly poppy for múm."

The record was also lauded as a positive progression for the band. "They've allowed themselves to become more playful with the release. múm have always carried some poetry with them. Their warm sound is like a world of its own that you can vanish into."

The band's position as ambassador for the scene they came from was the final factor. "Múm for me are a quintessential Icelandic band," remarked one panellist.

"Their contribution to 'the Icelandic way of doing things' has made its way into a whole new generation of musicians."

"Smilewound" is one of those records that deserve to be heard by many more people. Go seek it out right now!

(Most overlooked album of 2012: Skúli Sverrisson and Óskar Guðjónsson—The Box Tree)

Go See Them Play Live As Soon As You Can Award: Grísalappalísa



As a thank you for being such a great goddamn live band, we teamed up with musicians' haven Tónastöðin to get Grísalappalísa a year's supply of guitar strings. Use them well, guys!



With all the panellists having seen the very best Iceland has to offer at the Airwaves festival, there was no shortage of suggestions for the best live band. So, "shortlist" was a bit of a misnomer for the sprawling collection of candidates.

The panel's particular highlights included Ólafur Arnalds' Iceland Airwaves performance with the Reykjavík Symphony Orchestra, and the spectacle of the Gluteus Maximus stage show; Skálmöld won a lot of praise, and Mammút also took some plaudits for stepping up their live game.

But it was youthful energy won the day, with poet-punk rock 'n' roll band Grísalappalísa coming out on top in the final poll. "They were all anyone seemed to talk about in the summer," remarked the panel. "They played a huge amount of

shows and the whole scene was buzzing about it."

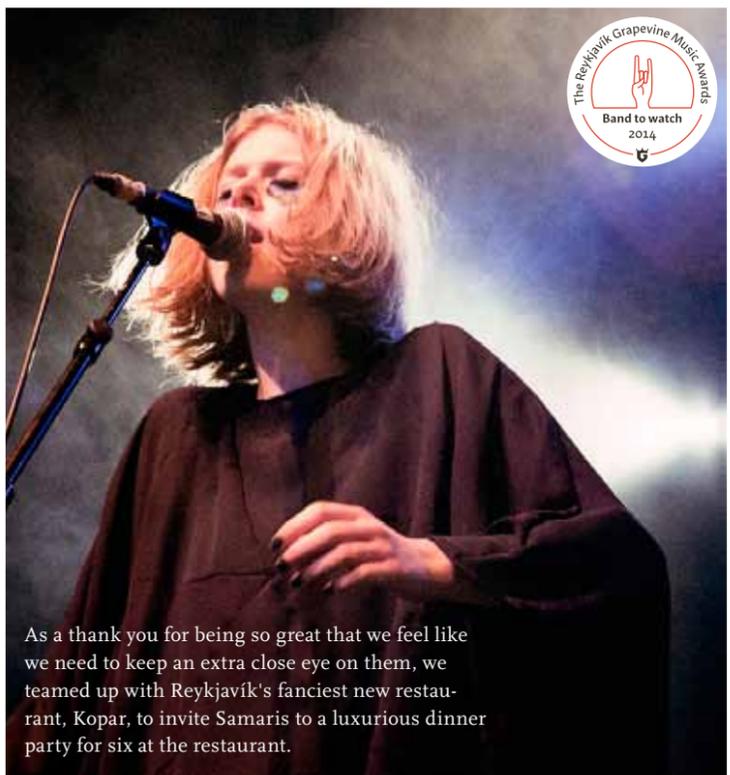
Their indefatigable energy and visible commitment helped win them the award. "Grísalappalísa's live performances this year have been electrifying," the panel further remarked.

"People come out of their shows laughing with happiness and full of adrenaline, having just spontaneously broken out into air punching, chanting, crowd surfing... it's really joyful stuff, and it reminds us of the heights that live rock 'n' roll music can hit."

Indeed, Grísalappalísa is one of Reykjavík's most invigorating live bands at the moment, the panel decreed. Go see them as soon as you can.

(Live band of 2012: Gusgus)

Band To Watch: Samaris



As a thank you for being so great that we feel like we need to keep an extra close eye on them, we teamed up with Reykjavík's fanciest new restaurant, Kopar, to invite Samaris to a luxurious dinner party for six at the restaurant.

The shortlist for the BAND TO WATCH category highlighted the stylistic breadth of the music emanating from Iceland over the last year. From the popular reggae band Ojba Rasta to the bracing metal of Kontinuum, and from the tireless electronica output of Futuregrapher, to up 'n' coming synth-pop trip Vök, to rappers Þuríður Blær Jóhannsdóttir and Kolfinna Nikulásdóttir, the sheer breadth of new bands on display is a testament to the richness of the Icelandic scene.

In talking over all these bands and artists, the panel arrived at the conclusion that a key factor in this award should be professional as well as creative progress. And for all the hard-working, talented acts that came up in the conversation, that meant there could only be one winner.

"Of all the new bands we talked about, none of them seem quite so poised for destruction as Samaris," said our panel. "They've been creatively convincing since day one, but since signing with One Little Indian, their star is really rising. They've been working hard playing festivals and gigs around Europe, pricking up the ears of critics and fans alike—and all this before their first full album."

Samaris have all the potential to be a world-conquering act, and now they have the support to go out and do it, too. Watch them closely.

(Band To Watch 2012: Muck)

The Band To Remember Trabant



During the debating process for the inaugural edition of Grapevine's music awards, we decided that such an event—meant to celebrate the best of what's currently happening along with the most promising newcomers—furthermore presented a great opportunity to look back and give our readers a reminder of where those people are coming from. A chance to honour some of the wonderful music of our past while instilling in our readers a sense of context and appreciation for how we got to where we are.

We decided to create some sort of 'legacy award,' honouring and celebrating greatness in our past. The BAND TO REMEMBER! category was born, urging everyone to remember some awesome band or musician and dig up their music and give it a spin.

After a bit of discussion (there are a lot of pretty great bands in our past), the panel reached the conclusion that it would be most appropriate to remember the wonderful TRABANT at this very moment in time. Trabant. Oh, Trabant.

At this point, a lot of you readers from the tourist contingent will be scratching your head wondering "wtf is a 'Trabant?'" while locals and long-time fans of Icelandic music will have immediately started humming the chorus to some of Trabant's enduring hits like "Nasty Boy" or "The One," maybe reminiscing about what a wonderful time they had at Innipúkinn 2004, furiously grinding along to the music as Trabant's frontman Ragnar Kjartansson hung from the rafters, shaking his tasselled manboobs while eating fireworks (yes, that's celebrated visual artist Ragnar Kjartansson. One and the same, see page 24).

Trabant were formed in 2001 out of the ashes of post-rock garage heroes Kanada, coming together to play a fusion of electro, punk, R&B and pop. They immediately set themselves apart from other local musicians by, on one hand, maintaining a certain joie de vivre, virility and sense of humour in everything they did (everyone was all po-faced and serious following Sigur Rós' success)—and on the other, being entirely unafraid to appeal to the masses, flirting with pop melodies and methods as they saw fit, which was very unusual in the underground scene they cut their teeth in.

They were truly a band that united the

nation under one groove. Their singles simultaneously topped the hnakki (FM 957), rocker (Xið 977), MOR (Bylgjan) and "common Icelander" (Rás 2) charts. They headlined both the Eyjar (hnakki) and Innipúkinn (artsy-fartsy types) over the same weekend. They even performed at the President of Iceland's house in Bessastaðir, the first and only "amplified" musicians to do so.

And they were pretty goddamn great while doing so.

Then, they just sort of faded away after releasing and touring the groundbreaking "Emotional" LP.

As the panel remarked:

"Trabant is possibly the most perfect pop band Iceland has produced. Melodic, glamorous and playful. They also made some visually stunning videos. It's perhaps no wonder that the frontman has grown to become one of Iceland's most successful visual artists.

They dared to be different when the world thought it had defined the Icelandic sound, a great live band that left us with sensational songs like "Nasty Boy" and "The One." They are for sure a Band To Remember."

At a time when social cohesion and unity is sorely lacking, we may need Trabant more than ever. Come back, Trabant! We miss you!

—Haukur S. Magnússon

The Panel



Matthías Már Magnússon

Matthías Már Magnússon is the host of the daily music show Poppland on Rás 2 for the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service. His show focuses on Icelandic music and new Icelandic bands, making him a perfectly positioned expert on Icelandic music, and an ideal judge for the second annual Reykjavík Grapevine Music Awards.



Anna Hildur Hildibrandsdóttir

Anna Hildur will be familiar to many as the former face of the Iceland Music Export, having since expanded her mission to head up the Nordic Music Export office (check out their cool new project, Nordic Playlist: www.nordicplaylist.com). Few people have more in-depth knowledge of the players and inner workings of the Icelandic scene than Anna.



John Rogers

John is a music writer for the Reykjavík Grapevine, as well being MD of the London/Reykjavík music agency Projekta where he manages bands, runs around Europe working on festivals and showcases, and works to publicise Icelandic musicians and independent music generally. He's also a DJ with a monthly slot at Kaffibarinn, and an artist, poet and writer.

Hear This!

Our panel was adamant that the year 2013 had yielded an overabundance of wonderful Icelandic albums, and that it was kind of a bummer that we couldn't honour more of them through awards and pats on the back and such. So we thought: why not make a shortlist of really great albums that we absolutely and strongly feel people should give a spin? So we did that. And it felt great. All of the records listed represent high points in the artists' careers, some of the best work they've done, and should be sought out and contended with.

Without further ado, here's Grapevine's HEAR THIS NOW SHORTLIST:

Snorri Helgason—"Autumn Skies"
Lay Low—"Talking About The Weather"
Ólöf Arnalds—"Sudden Elevation"
Tilbury—"Northern Comfort"
Bloodgroup—"Tracing Echoes"
Cell 7—"Cellf"
Vök—"Tension"
DJ Flugvél og geimskip—"Glamúr í geimnum"
Mammút—"Komdu til mín svarta systir"
Dániel Bjarnason—"Over Light Earth"
Ruxpin—"This Time We Go Together"

The Lovable Drunk

Ólafur Darri gets his Hollywood break, but stays true to character



□ A Still From 'The Secret Life Of Walter Mitty'

Words
Óskar Bragi Stefánsson

Although his acting in Iceland—with the Vesturport theatre group and in popular films and TV series such as '101 Reykjavík,' 'Sveitabréðkaup' ("Country Wedding") and 'Mannaveidar,' (Man Hunter)—have made Ólafur Darri a household name here, it wasn't until 2013 that he really broke into Hollywood.

Following his role alongside Mark Wahlberg in Baltasar Kormákur's 'Contraband' (a remake of the director's 2008 film 'Reykjavík-Rotterdam,' in which he also appeared), Ólafur Darri picked up parts in 'A Walk Among the Tombstones' starring Liam Neeson, Jonathan Demme's TV movie 'Line of Sight,' the HBO series 'True Detective,' starring Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson, and, of course, 'The Secret Life of Walter Mitty,' directed by Ben Stiller.

At the start of 2014, Ólafur Darri is poised for international greatness, but he still had time to sit down us and talk about working with Ben Stiller, his relationship with director Baltasar Kormákur, acting drunk, and being a bastard on film.

You had your first big Hollywood break with 'Contraband' in 2012. How did that come about?

I had done three or four films with Baltasar Kormákur [the director of 'Contraband'] and probably three or four plays as well. Just before shooting 'The Deep' with him, I was offered a part in 'The Three Musketeers' [directed by Paul W.S. Anderson]. It was a great part, but in the end I had to say no because it just didn't fit with the shooting schedule of 'The Deep.' When we were shooting, Balti knew he was going to do 'Contraband' six months later and Balti, being who he is, says, "You know, yeah, it's fine. I'll get you a part in my film."

Having seen 'The Three Mus-



□ A Still From 'Contraband'

keteers,' I'm quite happy I wasn't in it, but at the same time it was tough to get offered a part in a big film like that—your first part in a Hollywood film—and to have to turn it down. It was a strange feeling, but it all worked out for the best. I ended up auditioning with the casting director of 'Contraband,' Sheila Jaffe, and she liked me and I got the role. But, you know, he was the director. I can imagine him having at least some say, so... that probably helped.

Speaking of 'The Deep,' did shooting that film change you?

I think it did. I think everything you do changes you in some way. I love having my point of view changed and the great thing about being an actor is that you get a different view of so many things in life, and from so many angles. And you even get to do it in a pretty safe way. I mean 'The Deep' wasn't completely safe, but there are people around taking care of you, so you don't have to actually go through

these horrible things that your character is going through.

Yeah, it did change me. It forced me to examine the reality of surviving something that you're not supposed to survive.

Did you get any insight into survivor's guilt?

For me, that was maybe the most interesting part of immersing myself in the film, the idea of survivor's guilt and being the only one who survives something. Thankfully I've never had to experience something like that for real. I've only caught a glimpse of that kind of thing by studying it from the outside. It is somewhat like playing a character who struggles with a mental illness. We as actors can fake a lot of that stuff, as we know the mannerisms, we know the tone of voice—and you can play with stuff like that—but we can never truly be inside anyone who deals with mental illness or anything like that. So in the end, thankfully, we're only guessing.



□ A Still From 'The Deep'

Jumping to the film 'XL.' What are some of the challenges of starring-in and producing a no-budget film in Iceland?

Actually, I think there might be advantages to doing a no-budget film in Iceland. You can ask a lot of people for a lot of favours. I mean, we were granted permission to shoot inside banks. Almost everywhere. The only place we had a tough time getting a license for was shooting at Alþingi [Iceland's parliament].

So how long into the shooting of 'The Secret Life of Walter Mitty' did you 'geek-out'?

[Laughs] 'Geek-out'? What do you mean?

Well, I mean, you were acting opposite Ben Stiller, and he was directing you as well...

Oh that was surreal. Fortunately, I'd played a small part in a film called 'Beowulf and Grendel,' which had Stellan Skarsgård and Gerard Butler in it. That was my first role in anything with big-name actors. I've done bits and pieces—I've done some theatre in London and worked at the Royal Shakespeare Company. So I've been around a little. The only time I was

You get to do a fair amount of karaoke for your part in the film. Do you have a go-to karaoke song?

I have to say no. Well...actually I do. The music supervisor for the film, George Drakoulis, is such a great guy. He looks like me: big, lotta hair. And he loves to eat. So we instantly became bros. We went out to a karaoke bar in New York and I sang 'Don't you want me baby?' That was a lot of fun, but usually I don't do karaoke. I like to watch others do it. I'm just such a crap karaoke singer. But if you get me really drunk, I'll do it.

Sounds like a plan. Between 'The Secret Life of Walter Mitty,' 'XL,' and some of your older roles, it seems like you pretty much have a Master's degree in being drunk onscreen.

[Laughs] I mean, I have to say 'XL' was a master class on being drunk. Because that guy is just drinking and doing drugs—doing anything and everything. Before we started shooting, I was reminded of a 'selfie' I shot when I was making 'Beowulf and Grendel.' That movie was filmed in Vík, which is a pretty lonely place in winter. There was not a lot of stuff happening, so we would drink a lot of alcohol. And



□ A Still From 'XL'

really starstruck was when I met Jennifer Aniston. But thankfully, I was wearing sunglasses, so no one noticed. That was really funny, you know because I've met a lot of famous people. You think you'd be starstruck when you meet Nick Cave, for instance, but I wasn't starstruck when I met Nick Cave. But then I met Jennifer Aniston, and I couldn't breathe a word. It was really funny.

I remember coming into my hotel room and taking this picture of myself. I've never before—or since—seen that look on my face. So for 'XL,' I just dug up that photo, looked at it, and thought: "Okay, well, this is the place I have to go."

Who is your character in 'True Detective'?

It's not a big character. I'm only there for a couple of scenes. It's a stretch for me. Well, I say that like I'm not a big meanie.

HÓTEL KEILIR
 Airportshuttle • free Wireless internet • Breakfast included
 Tel: +354-4209800 • info@hotelkeilir.is • www.airporthotel.is
 5 min. from Keflavik Airport

Heavenly pizzas!
Gamla Smiðjan
 Home delivery
 See our menu at www.gamlasmidjan.is
 Opening hours:
 mon-thu 11:30-23
 fri 11:30-06
 sat 12-06
 & sun 12-23
www.gamlasmidjan.is tel. 578 8555 Lækjargata 8

Not Too Shabby

2013: Year In Music



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

Words

Davíð Roach Gunnarsson & Óli Dóri

A lot of great albums were released this year and the best one, in our humble opinion, came early in February: Sin Fang's third album, 'Flowers.' With this one, Sindri Már Sigfússon has mastered his widescreen indie pop sensibilities and Alex Somers's colourful production pushes the material into a realm of greatness. Icelandic electropop legends múm also astounded us with their set at the All Tomorrow's Parties music festival and followed it up later in the summer with one of the year's best albums, 'Smilewound.'

This spring also saw the emergence of the best new band of the year, Grísalappalísa, whose energetic postpunk and Icelandic lyrics with a raw poetic edge resulted in 'Ali,' one of the better debut albums to come out of Iceland in quite some time.

Other noteworthy albums to be released were 'Cupid Makes a Fool of Me' by the lo-fi psychedelic band Just Another Snake Cult, Mammút's long awaited third LP 'Komdu Til Mín Svarta Systir,' 'Cellf' by hip-hop legend Cell 7, 'This Time We Go Together' by Ambient maestro Ruxpin and the wonderful country-injected folk-pop of Snorri Helgason on 'Autumn Skies.'

One of the most catchy múm songs to date, "Candlestick," was our favourite song of the year over. The song begins with Nintendo-ish synths that set the tone for what follows. "What's wrong with your eyes" by Sin Fang with its beautiful melody was our second favourite. And "É Bisst Afsökunnar" by Markus & The Diversion Sessions, was our third favourite. The song sounds a bit like if Icelandic legend Megas were fronting Pavement. The catchy and hard rocking "Hver er ég?" by Grísalappalísa came in fourth and the futuristic/cartoonish "We Are Faster Than You" by FM Belfast was fifth.

Courtesy of the crash and currency problems, Reykjavík had a shortage of concerts with big international acts for a few years, but this year quite a few big international stars headed our way. Disco-virtuoso Nile Rodgers, R&B superstar Frank Ocean, Dionne Warwick, Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, Kraftwerk, James Blake and Squarepusher all visited our shores and played concerts. Our favourites were Daniel Johnston's intimate performance at Fríkirkjan and David By-

rne and St. Vincent's artful brass pop at Háskólabíó.

The biggest music-related news this year was the coming of two large international music festivals: Sónar and All Tomorrow's Parties. Sónar, which emphasises contemporary electronic music and progressive visuals, was held in Harpa in February, and was a great success with highlights being Squarepusher, James Blake and Diamond Version. In its unique setting at the former Nato Base at Ásbrú, All Tomorrow's Parties was also a very rewarding experience with great performances by the likes of Nick Cave, The Oh Sees and múm. Both of these festivals will be held again in 2014, with Major Lazer headlining Sónar and Portishead and Interpol scheduled to play All Tomorrow's Parties in July.

Speaking of festivals, we also have to mention the 15th Iceland Airwaves festival, which was exceptionally well organised and brought a roster of fine international and domestic acts together for a five day music feast at the end of October.

August saw famed concert venue Faktory (former Grand Rokk) close down with an epic performance by Gus Gus. It will be sorely missed: many of Iceland's biggest bands took their first step towards the limelight in its low-ceilinged upper floor on Smiðjustígur. Faktory's closing was a big blow after NASA closed last year, but new venues have opened to fill the void: Harlem at the beginning of the year and Brikk and Paloma at the end of it.

Also in August, our website, straum.is, had its first birthday and to celebrate we held a free concert at Harlem Bar with Útidúr and Just Another Snake Cult performing. Here's to another great year!

sushi) samba

A unique experience



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



Icelandic Feast

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

Starts with a shot of Icelandic national spirit "Brennivín"

Minke whale tatakushi

Date sauce, wakame

Icelandic langoustine cigar

Chorizo, dates, chili jam

Sake - salmon nigiri

Salmon maki - 4 pcs

Salmon, avocado, asparagus, wasabi masago, jalapeno mayo

Pressed lamb shoulder

Mashed potatoes, tomato and raisin sauce

And to finish

Cheese party

Tonka bean cheese cake, cream cheese foam, white chocolate skyr panna cotta

6.990 kr.

sushisamba

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

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

Reykjavík ART Museum

Open Daily

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

Listasafn Reykjavíkur
Reykjavík Art Museum



One Ticket - Three Museums



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



Kjarvalsstaðir
Flókagata, 105 Rvk.
Open 10-17



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

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

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

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



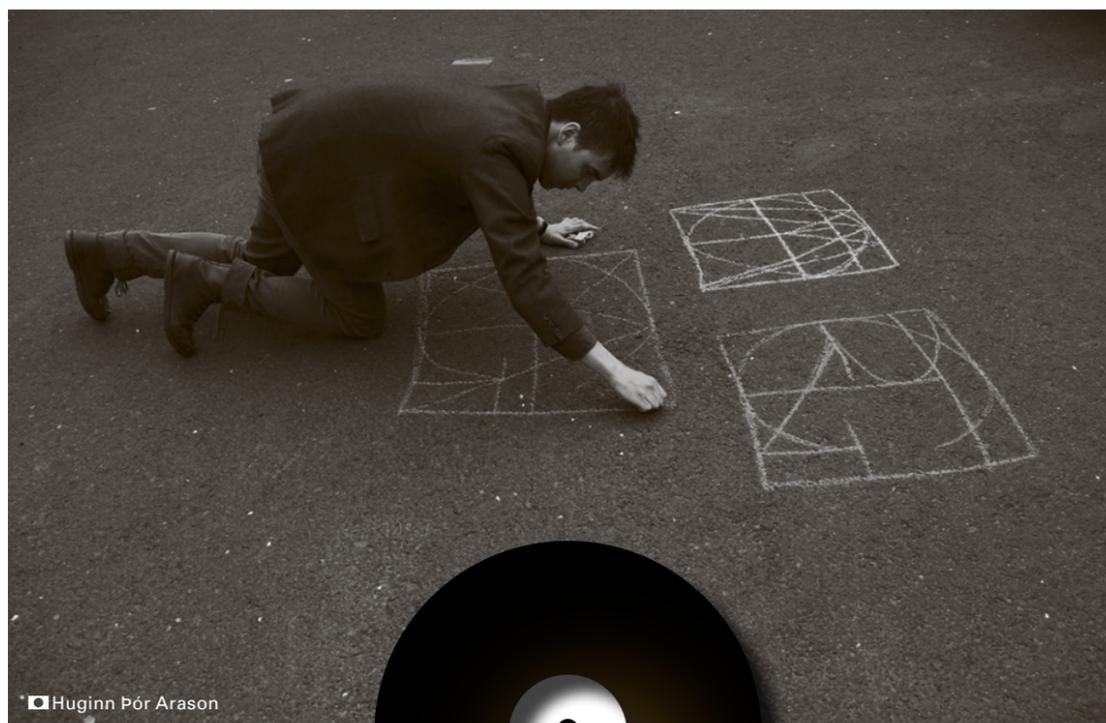
A new restaurant by the old harbour. At Kopar we choose local products, both from land and sea, to create an adventurous menu.



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



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



Huginn Þór Arason

Album Reviews

Benni Hemm Hemm

Eliminate Evil, Revive Good Times
2013

As we say in the homeland, 'Eliminate...' is a wee stoater o' an album!



Words

Bob Cluness

Earlier in 2013, I was asked by a fellow Icelandic music writer to provide some insight for an academic paper he was writing on the "Scottishness" of modern music that came from Scotland. He also asked whether I thought there was an inherent "Icelandicness" that characterises popular music that has come from Iceland in recent years.

One good example of music that shows an inherent "Icelandicness" is the music of Benedikt H. Hermansson, aka Benni Hemm Hemm. Over the last decade, his big band infused, carefree folk-pop has become synonymous with aspects of the nation's "Krútt" psyche and outlook. Grapevine reviews in the past have described his music as "Exuberantly perky," "Endlessly optimistic," "Innocent and Sweet" while showing "Indefatigable optimism." I suppose that's all fine and good if you're into that sort of thing (not me though).

But then something interesting happened. A few years ago, Benedikt moved from Iceland to Edinburgh, Scotland, and started hanging out and collaborating with the likes of Bill Wells, Dan Willson (AKA Withered Hand), and Alasdair Roberts. This exposure to different minds and attitudes resulted in the 'Retaliate EP' in 2010. It passed many people by, but it was a departure from Benedikt's usual music. Recorded in his house, the quirky hi-jinks were replaced with a darker, earthier humour, and the music that possessed a raw intimacy that held you in reeeeeeeal close.

Now with his latest release, 'Eliminate Evil, Revive Good Times,' Benedikt has made an album that continues the progressions of 'Retaliate,' resulting in music that's decidedly different to what he's released before. The album's art design illustrates this difference. Many of Benedikt's previous albums were adorned with childlike drawings of boats, mountains and ice cream, splashed with bright primary colours. 'Eliminate...' instead comes in a clear plastic pouch containing a tiny booklet (the sort that would be forced into your hand by evangelical Christians

in town centres), full on stern Calvinistic typeface, florid hypersigils and pictures of Benni drawing said sigils on walls, evoking what looks to be a form of chaos magick. It's as if he's channelling Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Bible John, under instruction from Grant Morrison.

The music of 'Eliminate...' shows an increased confidence in the production and structure of Benedikt's compositions. Many of Benedikt's previous albums, if we're honest, didn't sound that good. It felt like they were recorded in a village hall with a poorly house-trained school band that would completely overpower the proceedings. There was lots of energy, but it would fly out in every direction, leaving an empty centre. With 'Eliminate...' though, the music is enclosed, with everything close mic'd and hemmed in cheek by jowl. It seals in the energy of the music, allowing the natural acoustics of the instruments and vocals to provide the power. When the percussion and brass enter the fray on songs such as "I Am Free," and "Rise, Rise, Rise," there's a definite rumbling undercurrent to the melody that wasn't there before. "Siam" has him taking his minimalistic style to a new level, chanting the song's mantric title, with his guitar giving off sitar-like harmonics.

The production of 'Eliminate...' allows the intimacy invoked on 'Retaliate' to be fully realised on several songs. Benedikt's voice is a soft, lilting thing, but even he will admit that it is not the strongest vocal out there. But there are moments on 'Eliminate...' where everything is stripped back to its core and you can hear the quivering in his melodies. A song such as "Lucano & Ramona," for example just ACHES in its tenderness. Tremolo heavy guitar notes hang thick in the air while Benedikt's fragile vocals tell a tale of love and death on an apartment roof.

This leads to the lyrical themes of 'Eliminate...' that are different to his previous albums. Benedikt's previous music would contain lyrics that could be cynical, but ultimately they were silly, knockabout fluff. The themes of 'Eliminate...' however are much darker,

occasionally venturing into the territory of 'I See A Darkness' era Will Oldham. Benedikt seems much more willing to just let the black night of woe and hurt take him over. Songs such as "Beat Me Until You Are Tired," are utterly deadpan and succinct in its depiction of New Year's violence, while "Rise, Rise, Rise" and "Darkness" seem to revel in this abyss. But it never truly succumbs to the nihilistic self-destruction as the final track "Eliminate Evil, Revive Good Times," finally manages to come up for air to breathe in the light.

It's this idea of national traits in music that has me wondering if Benedikt's Scottish travels have resulted in him making music that breaks free from the inherent "Icelandicness" that was there before. Listening to 'Eliminate...' it certainly doesn't feel Icelandic. Of course the lyrics are all in English, with the backing vocals done in a slight Scots inflection, but he seems to have also absorbed some of the bruised romanticism and rousing melancholia that pervades much of modern Scottish music. The romanticism that acknowledges that there's a dark absurdity to society and our lives are essentially fucked, but we plough on regardless, no matter what the cost. When the guitar cranks in "The Mask Of Anarchy," it definitely harks to the weeping guitars of the likes of Teenage Fanclub and Arab Strap. You can imagine some of the old boys doon the Gallowgate when hearing this wiping away the odd tear before it drops into their pints.

Whatever the nationalist imagery on display, 'Eliminate...' manages to side-step much of the boring clichéd shit that infests most fashionable modern "folk" music. (Empty oompah sing-along chants, sporting bespoke bohemian fashion whilst trying to give the look of being hard bitten tillers of the land). Instead 'Eliminate...' is an album that I can relate to intensely, as it draws you into its murky embrace. It's contains music of a mystical fervour of a metaphysical bent, full of the intangibles that connects folk music to people, places and events.



THE TIN CAN
FACTORY

Borgartún 1 • www.thetincanfactory.eu

Learn Icelandic

Morgunnámskeið
Morning classes
4 vikur / 4 weeks
mán. til fim.
Mon. to Thu.
9:30-12:15
13.01.-6.02.
17.02.-13.03.

Öll stig / All levels

Kvöldnámskeið
Evening classes
6 vikur / 6 weeks
mán. þri. fim.
Mon. Tue. Thu.
17:30-19:55
13.01.-20.02.
3.03.-10.04.

Öll stig / All levels

YOUR UNION PAYS PART!

Kvöldnámskeið
Evening classes
6 vikur / 6 weeks
mán. þri. fim.
Mon. Tue. Thu.
20:00-22:15
13.01.-20.02.
03.03.-10.04.

Stig / Level 1, 2, 3

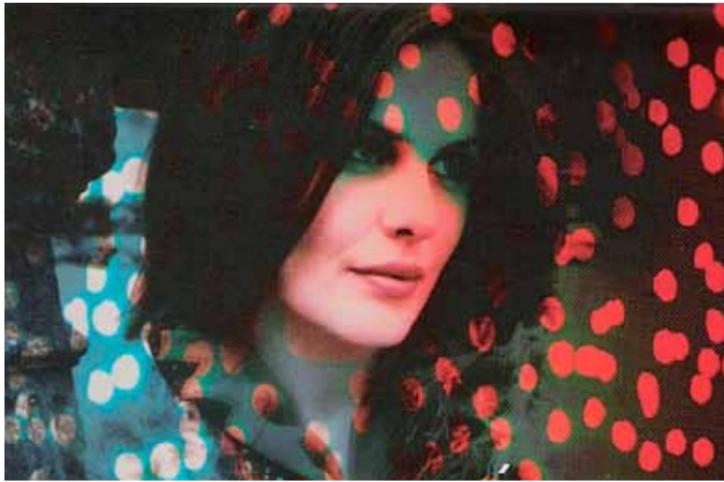
Enska
Spænska
Ítalska

fyrir börn og
fulloröna

sjá heimasíðu
thetincanfactory.eu

BOOK NOW / TEL. 551 7700
info@thetincanfactory.eu

TALK • READ • COOK • LISTEN
FIELD-WORK • FOOD & FUN



ÍRIS

Penumbra
2013



Songs for a quiet winter afternoon

Words

Burke Jam

+ 'Penumbra,' the debut album from songwriter and vocalist ÍRIS, does just what the title suggests. Sitting on the edge of shadow and light, this album seems to lose itself in this indeterminate space. Sombre and beautiful in concept, 'Penumbra' falls just short of really capturing the edge and contrast of that dark and light space. Flat grey days permeate these nine songs. Unfortunately, it never really rains, nor is the listener afforded the possible break of sonic light after the clouds.

The record evokes something between Fiona Apple's starker musical structuring and Beth Orton's personally mythological narrative. While the songwriting shows much potential, the recording itself leaves something to be desired. The opening track "That

Morning" walks a problematic line between intimate vocals and the rest of the instrumentation. Truly interesting arrangements feel unfortunately flat. The main problems lie in the percussion, at times feeling like they are forcing the rhythm along, and at times they simply just don't sink where they should. These songs need more sonic depth to match ÍRIS's voice: Let them hit. Let the blow be strong enough to sink the ship, and let the vocals carry us through the depths.

The best moments on 'Penumbra' exist in the space between notes—where the songs are allowed to slowly ripple along, left to their own devices. Here there is much beauty and plenty to listen for. Certainly a promising debut, 'Penumbra' is a perfect record for quiet winter days, a good book and cup of tea.



Snorri Helgason

Autumn Skies
2013



High quality songwriting and production ache with loveliness

Words

Joe Shooman

+ What beautiful sounds this album delivers; it's simply a brilliantly-designed and controlled set of pastoral pop songs that delivers an intensity of loving thoughts and vignettes through a largely acoustic palette.

Snorri's voice is smooth on the country-blues title tracks that bookend the album, first the guitar version and later with piano in full effect. There's much late-summer wooziness on show, too, such as the wistful, shimmering "Berlin" and the Eels-ish single "Summer Is Almost Gone," which doesn't so much seep from the speakers as ooze. Snorri, meanwhile, ruminates on the dying embers of a relationship.

The middle of the album contains two extraordinarily high points: first, the aching, elegiac "Poor Mum," featuring the pure, close-mic, throat-y and float-y female vocals. The only Icelandic-delivered track on the record is "Kveðja," which seems a waste of the assonant and rich sonic possibilities on offer. It's a small quibble only; there are some lovely moments still to come, not least the 1950s fairground blues of "Big Wheels," all arpeggios and dramatic fuzzy guitar interventions. "There's so much we can learn from each other's eyes," he sings, voice creaking at the edges. From voices, and ears, too, it seems.



"Out of this world!!!"

CBondGirl - Calgary, Canada. Trip Advisor



"It certainly was the best of the many places we dined in Reykjavik!"

FrequentFlyer513 - New York City, New York - Trip Advisor

BORG RESTAURANT - PÓSHÚSSTRÆTI 9-11 - 101 REYKJAVÍK

TEL: +354-578-2020 - INFO@BORGRESTAURANT.IS - WWW.BORGRESTAURANT.IS

WE TAKE OUR WATERPROOF TESTING VERY SERIOUSLY

J.S. Watch co.
REYKJAVÍK

MADE IN ICELAND www.jswatch.com

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

GILBERT
ÚRSMÍÐUR
Laugavegi 62 - sími: 551-4100

THE FRESHEST FISH ...AND IDEAS!

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

SJÁVARGRILLIÐ
— SEAFOOD GRILL —

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

Meet Iceland's Pinball Wizard

One man's hobbyist crusade to keep pinball alive in Iceland



Words
Alex Baumhardt

As it is for many hobbyists and collectors, it was inevitably a love of Star Wars that spurred Þröstur Höskuldsson to act on an ad in a local newspaper for a broken pinball machine. He bought it about six years ago while he was studying electrical engineering at Reykjavík University and thought it would make a nice home decoration.

"I have to admit," he says, "I really didn't play these pinball machines when I was younger. It was not until I saw this advertisement for a broken, Star Wars pinball machine that I—as a big Star Wars nerd—wanted to have it in my living room."

He paid 100,000 ISK for it and spent a month refurbishing it and making it run. Then he started looking for more. Today, Þröstur owns 16 pinball machines, 13 of which he's refurbished and brought back to life. Those 13 machines are just about all

of the working pinball machines in Iceland and he keeps them in one of his three garages—two rented and one next to his house.

Since buying that first machine, he says he's put a lot of ads in the papers and has asked around about machines. "I've actually called random people working in a bowling facility in Akranes to ask if they have any old machines or know about any, and I've had quite a bit of success with that," he says.

The Death Of Pinball

Pinball was at its height in the mid 20th century and between 1955 and 1970 the pinball gaming industry made more money than the entire American movie industry according to an NPR report.

In his search for machines, Þröstur checked out the newspaper archives on tímarit.is and discovered Iceland's rich pinball past. "I couldn't believe how many machines used to be here—hundreds—and then most of

these games just vanished."

He hit the mother lode about three years ago when he found someone selling a container of 20 old arcade games in Akureyri. Most were pinball machines, the oldest of which was from 1977, but there were a few other games like Pac Man and Mortal Combat in the lot. All of them were deemed broken relics of the past that were pushed out by the advent of digital video games.

"There were three pinball machines in there that I really wanted: Indiana Jones, Adams Family and Star Wars. I pretty much bought the whole thing because I wanted those three machines," he says.

He became as hooked on the challenge of refurbishing the arcade games as he had been with the pinball machines and luckily, by this point, Þröstur was working as a computer programmer.

"When I see these games like Mortal Combat and NBA Jam, I sort of want to give them a second life too. Maybe it runs in my family, my mother is sort of like this, she never wants to throw things away."

The Second Coming Of Pinball

He keeps four of his favourite pinball machines in a special room in his house and the Pac Man game and the Adams Family Pinball machine are camped in a second living room. His wife is cool with him keeping one work-in-progress in their house at a time and he'll work on that one ma-

"I have to admit, I really didn't play these pinball machines when I was younger. It was not until I saw this advertisement for a broken, Star Wars pinball machine that I—as a big Star Wars nerd—wanted to have it in my living room."

chine every other day, typically for about a month.

He buys many of the parts on eBay that come from old arcades or collectors in the US, Australia and the UK. One of his favourite pinball machines is a Guns N' Roses game with two trigger pullies on each side: one

is shaped like a gun and the other, a rose. But when he bought it, the rose was missing. After a month-long Internet search, he found a replacement rose piece in Australia.

"Some of these machines are getting more and more valuable, which is great. Hopefully, it will keep people from throwing them and the parts away," he says.

Þröstur doesn't spend a ton of time playing the games and more often than not, the ones in his house aren't turned on. His kids are still too little to reach the handles let alone see the screen without a boost, though he says the machines are always being played on the kids' birthdays. "They're a cool thing to have around," he says.

He also rents them out occasionally and recently had one pinball machine stationed at the CCP headquarters (the game company that makes the EVE online games) in Reykjavík. "The only problem is, they're huge," he says. Thus most of them stay at his home. He doesn't get visitors to his house wanting to play, but he gets people interested in buying them for their own homes.

"I think now, most of these machines are in homes," he says. "They're not in much commercial use these days."

The Pinball Renaissance

"My dream for the future would be to make a mini-arcade. To open it up every now and then and let people play for free. It would be the perfect venue for Menningarnótt [Culture Night]," Þröstur says.

He's been living in 101 for years and sees it as the part of town that could host a renaissance of pinball playing. If the one pinball machine at the bar Paloma is a sign, perhaps more will crop up at bars and cafes in Reykjavík.

He hasn't sold any of his machines yet, but he's reaching capacity on his collection and he knows he'll have to begin selling some soon. "I actually tried to get permission to enlarge my garage, but I wasn't successful," he says.

Þröstur has yet to pass on any opportunity to buy a pinball machine, but he says he's reaching that point. "I'm getting fat on them. I've realised that I have more than I need to keep up this hobby."

**THE NUMBER 1 MUSIC STORE
IN EUROPE ACCORDING TO
LONELY PLANET**

12 Tónar

SKÓLAVÖRÐUSTÍG 15, 101 REYKJAVÍK AND HARPA CONCERT HALL



THE LOCAL BEER

WORLD'S BEST STANDARD LAGER



2.25%
ALC. VOL.

There Are Stars... Exploding

The Visitors by Ragnar Kjartansson



Still from 'The Visitors'
By Ragnar Kjartansson

The Visitors

FREE ADMISSION



Until February 9



Kling & Bang Gallery
Hverfisgata 42

Words

Burke Jam

Ragnar Kjartansson's 'The Visitors' is perfect. This is art today and it feels amazing. The show, up at Kling and Bang Gallery until February 9th, is a must-see.

+ A world of stunning joy and beauty, glowing in every minute detail.

Walking into 'The Visitors' feels like walking into a house of your closest friends. The experience of this work is distinctly inclusive rather than voyeuristic, despite the intimate nature of each shot. This installation is made up of nine larger than life tableaux projections of different spaces at the Rockeby mansion, in Upstate New York. Each space, with its respective cast members and instrumentation, comes to heartbreakingly beautiful life as one immersive musical opus. The cast is made up of Ragnar's close friends, Icelandic music notables including members of múm and Sigur Rós, as well as the family of Rokeby. Each screen in the darkened gallery is supplied with its own channel

of sound emanating from the performer in frame. All of them sonically coalesce to create the space of the work. Moving through the space, the audience is afforded a pristine mix of each performer, and it is this relationship between the individual screens and the installation as a whole that guides us throughout the entirety of the work. It functions as if we were there wandering from room to room to witness this shared harmonious vision amongst Ragnar and friends.

The power of this work lies in its mastery. To pull off a work like this with such resounding clarity is a true testament to 21st century interdisciplinary practice. While it exhibits as a video installation, Ragnar is moving with grace between and within vast realms of art making and art history. Any single element of this work would function as a stand-alone

work within its own respective media. By not simply utilising but rather incorporating, with pristine result, photography, film, sound, installation, sculpture, and performance art, 'The Visitors' grabs you by the heart and welcomes you along for the ride.

Perhaps, however, the most affecting attribute of this work is that it is fun, and Ragnar knows it. This work feels like an idea that had to be executed to celebrate the pure joy of the cacophonous mess of human experience. While that mess is shown here through Ragnar's distinct artistic voice, he manages to transcend into a more universal and shared experience. It becomes our mess, deep, moving, poignant and shared. Go experience this piece, and then go see it again. You will be glad that you did.

2013: A Good Year For Ragnar Kjartansson

Ragnar Kjartansson is quickly becoming a global name in contemporary art. Born in Reykjavik in 1976, this artist has been picking up steam for the last several years and shows no signs of slowing down in 2014. The opening of his work *The Visitors* at Kling and Bang Gallery on November 30, brought a huge turnout and welcome homecoming for this master of play and human condition and rapidly ascending Icelandic artist.

While Iceland has seen a consistent and vibrant presence on the global art stage for the last 30 years, Ragnar is one of its most accomplished for his age.

Trained in painting at the Iceland Academy of Art, Ragnar's practice and career have moved into an ever-expanding field of performance, film, music, and installation with great result. His works have been received around the world to consistent acclaim. At 33 he became the youngest artist to represent Iceland at the 2009 Venice Biennale. He was invited again to the Venice Biennale in 2013 showcasing continuous musical performance for the duration of the show.

In December, Ragnar was shortlisted for the Artes Mundi award. At £40,000, it is the largest award in the UK

and one of the largest recognitions in the world for contemporary art. Ragnar was chosen from a pool of 800 nominations spanning 70 countries. The finalists this year are from the Netherlands, Brazil, Croatia, Israel, Portugal, the US, and the UK. This shortlist is made up of some of the leading figures in contemporary art practice. Ragnar will be part of an exhibition with the other finalists at the Wales National Museum of Art, from October 25, 2014 to February 2015. The winner of the Artes Mundi will be announced January 22, 2015.



uno

SPUNTINI
RISOTTO
PASTA
CLASSICS
DESSERTS

The kitchen is open until
midnight on weekends
17:00 – 23:00 sun. – thu.

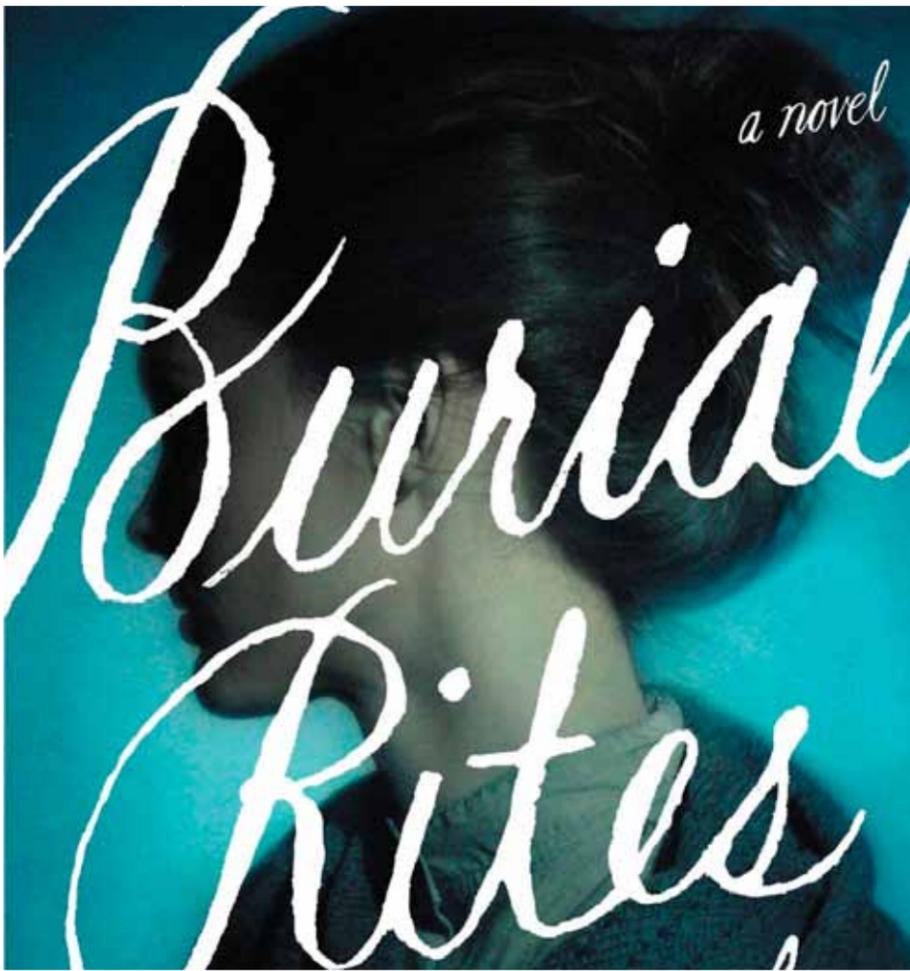
UNO at Ingólfstorg | Tel. 561 1313 | www.uno.is

BOOK REVIEW



Monster or Martyr?

Burial Rites by Hannah Kent



Words

Larissa Kyzer

Based on the real story of Agnes Magnúsdóttir, who in 1830 became the last person to be executed for a crime in Iceland, 'Burial Rites,' the debut novel by Australian author Hannah Kent, is the culmination of ten years' of writing, research, and obsession—what the 26-year-old winner of the Writing Australia Unpublished Manuscript Award describes as her “dark love letter to Iceland.”

Lyricaly written, meticulously researched and swiftly plotted, 'Burial Rites' takes an infamous figure in Icelandic history and transforms her from “the spider, the witch caught in the webbing of her own fateful weaving,” into a believably complex character with motivations more pure than evil. Indeed, Kent writes that her book was intended to “supply a more ambiguous portrayal” of a woman who many sources credit with being manipulative and conniving, the brains behind a vicious double murder staged while the victims were asleep.

When the novel opens, Agnes's fate is already sealed: she has been found guilty of murder and arson and sentenced to death. Although convicts at the time were generally sent to Denmark for execution, it was, in the case of Agnes and her co-conspirator, determined to be more “economical,” to behead them both locally (the public execution may have also been intended to make an example of the harsh penalty for murder). While awaiting her execution, however, Agnes is sent to live and work with the family of a district officer, and to be advised by a young and inexperienced reverend so that she might repent of her crime before her death.

Kent crafts the narrative, and our picture of Agnes, through her protagonist's own voice as she relates her life story to Reverend Tóti, through letters (based largely on original documents), and through the eyes of several secondary characters. The story is peppered with myriad small details which manifest the often grim daily lives of Icelandic peasants in the 19th century. We glance through a croft's window, fitted with “dried sheep's bladder that had been pulled across to serve as a pane.” We join Agnes in the painstaking process of hand-making blood sausage, “up to my elbows in the guts of things, working towards a kind of survival.” Occasionally, these quotidian details feel a bit forced, as when the narrator points out “a young woman wearing the national headdress of cap and tassel,” or when Agnes describes a sound which “lingered in the air like a cloud of ash over a volcano.” But

mostly, they are discreetly interwoven in the narrative, adding an extra degree of reality to the story.

Agnes comes to be known to her host family as a hard worker, a woman with considerable domestic wisdom (she deftly delivers a breeched baby) and literary knowledge (she knows many sagas by heart), and of a principled, if proud, character. She's written as something of a poet, infusing her speech and memories with melodic descriptions of the countryside, the weather, and daily tasks: “I sway back and forth and let gravity bring the scythe down and through the grass, until I rock steadily. Until I feel that I am not moving myself, and that the sun is driving me. Until I am a puppet of the wind, and of the scythe, and of the long slow strokes that propel my body forward. Until I couldn't stop if I wanted to.”

In one of her interviews, Ms. Kent stated that part of her fascination with Agnes's story lay in the fact that accounts of the woman lacked nuance. “When I heard people use the word 'monstrous' in connection to Agnes and her actions,” she stated in an interview with Australia's ABC News, “there was part of me that thought, ‘but no one's really a monster.’” Such compassion is clearly what allowed Kent to fully embody this story, and yet it is also the novel's main weakness. For it is not, ultimately, that difficult to compel a reader to empathise with a downtrodden, misunderstood, educated, but uncared-for woman—especially when that woman's crime is revealed to have sprung from mercy and love, rather than hate or vengefulness.

How much more might an author of Kent's obvious talent have accomplished if only she had helped us empathise with a woman who was just a bit of a villain—a little selfish, a little less self-assured and less poised? When correcting or recasting history—when creating a lasting portrait of a real human being—it is not, perhaps, any less questionable to create a martyr than a monster.

Historically Speaking: The Illugastaðir Murders

Although capital punishment wasn't abolished in Iceland until 1928, the last people to be executed for their crimes in the country were an eighteen-year-old farmhand named Friðrik Sigurðsson and a thirty-three-year-old workmaid named Agnes Magnúsdóttir, in 1830.

Along with another, younger maid named Sigríður Guðmundsdóttir (whose sentence was commuted to life in a Danish textile prison), the pair were found guilty of murdering Agnes's employer, a medicine man by the name of Natan Ketilsson, and his guest Pétur Jónsson, at Natan's farm Illugastaðir, on the Vatnsnes Peninsula in Northern Iceland. The men were asleep when they were stabbed to death, after which the house was set on fire to destroy any evidence. It is commonly presumed that Friðrik killed Natan in order to rob him, but that Agnes, once Natan's lover, gave Friðrik the idea in the first place. She is believed to have been jealous that Natan had thrown

her over for the younger Sigríður, who—just to complicate matters further—Friðrik may have been in love with as well.

Agnes and Friðrik were publicly beheaded by none other than Natan's brother and their heads were displayed on pikes. The heads were then secretly removed that very night and buried. In 1934, their bodies were transferred to a shared grave in a nearby churchyard. The grave can still be visited today.

While this lovers-spurned scenario makes the story of the Illugastaðir murders compelling as it is, the story's endurance over the years can also be attributed to its resurrection over 100 years in the future. In 1932, a Reykjavík woman named Sesselja claimed to have received messages from Agnes, asking that she and Friðrik's bodies and heads be found and reburied in consecrated ground. After several years of periodic possession by Agnes, Sesselja shared her story. Church authorities helped

Hallgrímskirkja's Friends of the Arts Society 32nd season

Sunday February 2nd 2014 at 3 pm

Porkell Sigurbjörnsson
1938-2013
in memoriam

Works by one of Iceland's most prolific and beloved composers for choir and organ.

Premiere of a new work by Hreiðar Ingi Þorsteinsson, Nunc dimittis

Schola cantorum chamber choir of Hallgrímskirkja
Conductor and organist: Hörður Áskelsson, Music Director of Hallgrímskirkja



Admission: 3.000 ISK

Ticket sale at Hallgrímskirkja box office
Open daily 9 am - 5 pm and at www.midi.is





Make sure it's Elding!

Elding
adventure at sea

Call us on +354 519 5000
or visit www.elding.is

ELDING WHALE WATCHING

from Reykjavik

Elding Whale Watching schedule - all year round

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

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

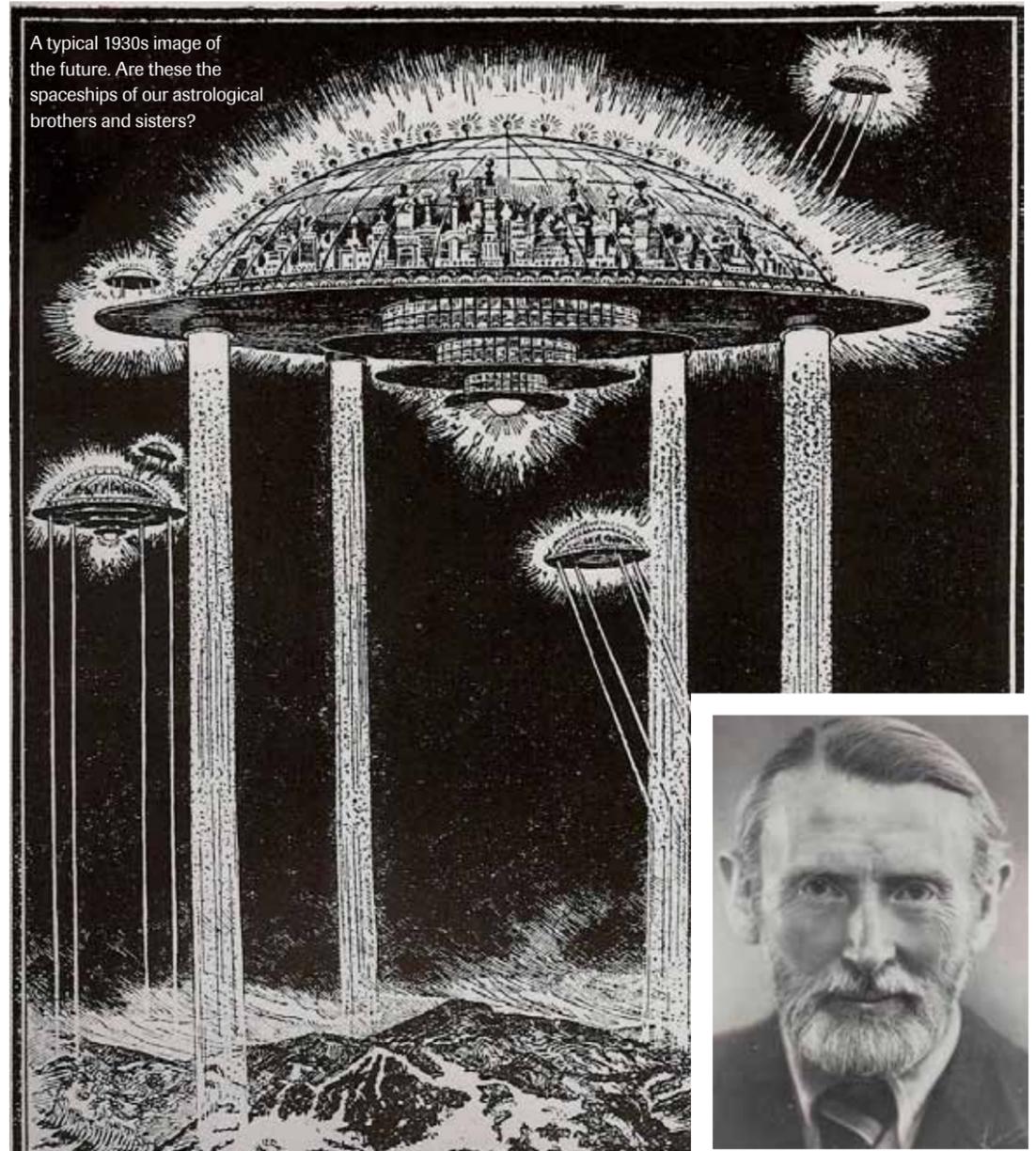
Northern Lights Cruise

Daily at 21:00 from 16 October to 14 March
Daily at 22:00 from 15 March - 15 April



www.elding.is

Greater Beings In The Stars Will Be Frequent Guests



A typical 1930s image of the future. Are these the spaceships of our astrological brothers and sisters?

Words

Helgi Hrafn Guðmundsson, Vera Illugadóttir & Dr. Helgi Pjeturss

At the start of each New Year we are tempted to make predictions. Lemúrin will make no such forecast for 2014 as we think it is generally a bad idea to predict much about the future.

Instead we will look at an old magazine article by the Icelandic scientist and astrobiologist Dr. Helgi Pjeturss (1872–1949). He studied natural science at the University of Copenhagen and became the first Icelander to graduate with a PhD in geology in 1905.

Dr. Pjeturss became a leading scientist in the complex and intriguing field of the secrets behind the fierce volcanism and geological history of Iceland. Around 1920, however, he became a somewhat curious figure when he began preaching his theories on psychic phenomena. He did not agree with the spiritualist movement that ghosts and spirits visited people in dreams. Instead he put forward a complex “astrobiological” theory positing that the universe was full of life and man was interconnected with beings on other planets, which we could visit in dreams. The Afterlife, he believed, would be spent on different planets. He was also interested in futurology and, in 1933, he made the following predictions about life in Iceland and the universe for the year 2000 and the 21st Century.

In the year 2000, mankind's circumstances will be completely different from the way they are now. First and foremost, health and well-being will be greater than it is now, as people will be much better equipped to take advantage of that which improves life, be it love, light, or the fire and scent of the air (ozon). Each man will by then have a much greater chance of prac-

ting the quest for physical and spiritual perfection.

There will be no wars, no one will want to take on the inevitable consequences of maiming and killing. And all kinds of strife between parties and individuals will be much less frequent than now, as it will be easier to avoid contentious issues and come together. Disagreement on religion will be history, mostly.

There will be a great change in industry. No man will then have to spend his days breaking rocks in narrow mine tunnels and risking, as has been the case so frequently, being buried alive and suffering the most horrible of deaths. There will be no need to seek the sunshine underground – because we can say that coal is but ancient sunshine under a kind of spell, from which it is released when the coals burn. Men will by then know how to harness contemporary sunshine. Agriculture will be widely practiced, but with radically different and modern techniques. We might call it ‘speed-agriculture’, and it will make use of rays we still know little about.

New types of fruits will be manufactured, much healthier and tastier than those, which we now know. But I am not

saying that wheat and rye will be history, but then we will use those fine fruits to their fullest potential, taste- and health-wise. We still have ways to go before reaching that goal. There will absolutely be no raising of livestock only to slaughter.

And there will be much travelling. Everyone will have a chance to see much of the world. There will be no wars, no one will want to take on the inevitable consequences of maiming and killing. And all kinds of strife between parties and individuals will be much less frequent than now, as it will be easier to avoid contentious issues and come together. Disagreement on religion will be history, mostly.

Mankind will, through scientific means, seek contact with greater beings in the stars, and such beings will even be frequent guests here on earth. Open-mindedness and prescience will shine as a kind of higher sunshine over all life. More and more, men will know what to expect from the future, and more and more, that which then comes as a surprise will be even better than expected. So that the old saying from Hávamál, many a thing goes worse than is looked for, will no longer hold true. And as I have written about earlier, there will be a great emphasis on dream-life, and sleep used to get to know life on other stars.

In the year 2000, Iceland will be one of the most fun countries on earth, and the weather will no longer be a hindrance to enjoying the beauty of its landscape to the fullest.

HOW DO YOU SAY DELICIOUS IN ICELANDIC?

COME FIND OUT

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

MAR

marrestaurant.is 00354 519 5050 #marrestaurant

Welcome To 2004 (no, that's not a typo....)



Eiríkur Smith and James Rice
work at the Centre for Disability
Studies, University of Iceland.

Of course it should read 'welcome to 2014' and a very happy New Year to all. And what better way is there to ring in the New Year than with some political commentary. In certain ways, 2014 in Iceland is starting to feel much like 2004. The crisis of 2008 and the lessons learned (or not learned) seem to be fading into the past. We were hopeful that some long-term changes in the area of social justice would materialise as the result of the crisis. What we got some five years later was the return to the same old and tired rhetoric that heaps scorn and derision upon the most marginalised sectors of society.

In 2004 in Iceland it was not unusual to encounter discourses that were critical of disability pensioners (örryrkjar). Quite similar to what occurs in the UK, these discourses aren't all that concerned with such trivial things as facts or evidence, and only seem to exist to stir public sentiment against people whose only 'crime' is having been medically diagnosed with a physical, intellectual or psychological impairment that impinges upon their work capacities. This doesn't seem to matter to those who argue that pensions need to be cut because somehow people will 'choose' a pension over waged labour. There is little room for 'choice' here and pensions are awarded depending on the outcome of a medicalised evaluation system carried about by insurance physicians who by nature seem to be a rather suspicious lot. Over the past few years, these kinds of discourses seemed to have quieted somewhat, but in recent months they have become noticeable again.

The favourite target in Iceland of these kinds of discourses is the 'disabled mother with three children.' In a recent interview in the journal *Kjarninn*, a member of parliament called upon this trope to outrage readers by arguing that in some cases such pensioners could earn more than an MP. This is absurd given that the pension levels are all available on the web via the Icelandic Social Insurance Administration (www.tr.is) for anyone who cares to look. Of course one could also ask why adequate pension levels are a problem in the first place and why these comparisons need to be made. It is ludicrous to believe that an intelligent, educated man like this MP, who is a trained lawyer to boot, is unable to read a website and do basic calculations. The only conclusion one can draw from this 'disabled mother of three can make more than MPs' discourse is that it is part of a wilful attempt to enrage the public by using misinformation to accomplish political goals.

Such views are not only put forth by the political right in Iceland. All too often the respective right and centre-right Independence Party and Progressive Party receive an unfair level of criticism—as if they were solely responsible for the prejudice and bigotry heaped upon disabled people in Iceland. This runs at a much deeper societal level. Recently, Freyja Haraldsdóttir, a prominent disability activist, criticised former president Vigdís Finnbogadóttir for using an Icelandic term for disability (fötlan) as a negative adjective. Vigdís was talking about how RÚV, the national broadcasting service, had become 'impaired' or 'broken.' Freyja pointed out in a Facebook post that doing this has implications for how disabled people are in turn viewed as 'broken,' 'helpless' or 'useless.'

To argue for a link between language and perception is not particularly contro-

versial. There are entire branches of psychology, linguistics and philosophy dedicated to investigating words, discourse and their effects.

Freyja's Facebook post in reaction to Vigdís's words was then somehow turned into a 'news story' by Visir and later DV, which spawned a multitude of comments and reactions on other blogs. What was surprising was the level of outrage and anger about Freyja's criticisms, as she was repeatedly told to 'shut up' and 'stop whining.' This reaction is perhaps partly due to Vigdís being a revered figure in Icelandic society. Merely articulating one's opinion in the current political climate also seems to be tantamount to being a 'freakja,' or a "whiny brat." However, the comments on this story indicated a rejection of the notion that people find certain terms offensive and hurtful.

Internet trolls will of course abound in these cases, as those who seem to relish in trying to outdo one another in being 'un-PC,' but it was particularly disturbing to see comments by educated and generally progressive people who could not seem to grasp the basic concept that language matters. Perhaps the most absurd reaction to this was a blog article that was carried by a number of sites, such as Eyjan, entitled 'Words are innocent' (Orð eru saklaus). Of course words are not innocent. Words—in isolation and arranged in the form of discourse—are one of the key methods through which humans communicate and create meaning. The author of this article insisted that terms such as 'fáviti' (imbecile, retard), because they are old words that can be found within the dictionary, are 'beautiful' words that the Icelandic language simply cannot do without. Perhaps the best judge of whether or not these words are offensive would be the actual people to whom these labels are applied.

In many ways, words and discourse certainly matter. The discursive tactics involved in trying to build public outrage to justify cuts to low-income pension earners are easily understandable and somewhat transparent for their political implications. The anger and vehemence provoked by Freyja Haraldsdóttir's point that language matters is of another order altogether and has nothing to do with party politics. It recalls another argument from about a decade ago surrounding language and terms denoting gay people, with those who insist on clinging to words that some find offensive simply because they exist in the dictionary. This requires another kind of analysis, among other things asking why people feel so strongly about words that are not applied to them in the first place, or why we cannot at least have a civilised discussion about it.

Here's to a better 2014, as 2013 was certainly a disappointing one from this perspective.



HEALTHY EATING
VEGETARIAN
RAW FOOD
RESTAURANT
JUICE BAR

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

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



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



Kaldi
bar / café

Unique icelandic micro brewery

Happy-Hour from 16:00-19:00

Kaldibar café, Laugavegur 20b, 101 Reykjavík, <https://www.facebook.com/KaldiBarCafe>

[Funky, fresh and full of flavor!
You must try it!]



RUB23 · Aðalstræti 2 · 101 Reykjavík
Phone +354 553 5323 · reykjavik@rub23.is

RUB23 · Kaupvangsstræti 6 · 600 Akureyri
Phone +354 462 2223 · rub@rub23.is

www.rub23.is

[**RUB23**]
RESTAURANT
FISH - MEAT - SUSHI

Don't Forget to Breathe

A wintertime dip with the Sea Swimming and Sea Bathing Association of Reykjavík

© Nanna Dís

AIR ICELAND
FLUGFÉLAG ÍSLANDS



**EXPLORING ICELAND,
THE FAROE ISLANDS OR GREENLAND
IT'S EASY WITH AIR ICELAND**





© Nanna Dis

“You don’t have to be crazy to go swimming in the sea, but it helps.” So says the man sitting next to me in the hot tub at Nauthólsvík, Reykjavík’s Geothermal beach. We’re facing out toward the Fossvogur bay, and if you listen carefully, you can hear the sound of the waves lapping at the shoreline. It’s six in the evening and pitch dark. But for the time being, at least, the perpetual drizzle and fog, which have hung over Reykjavík all week, has lifted, so the twinkling lights of Kópavogur are visible across the water. The man next to me is still laughing to himself, but I don’t need any convincing on the crazy count. Because I’ve just been sea swimming in the North Atlantic, and I think I want to go back.

Words

Larissa Kyzer

It’s worth admitting from the get-go that when I proposed the idea of writing about Reykjavík’s Sea Swimming and Sea Bathing Association, I didn’t think that I would be actually getting into the water myself. I grew up in the landlocked, Sonoran desert of Arizona, and have nursed a lifelong suspicion of large bodies of water. I’m also petrified of being cold, and am a strictly two-scarf sort of lady. But when I found myself invited to join a few members on their weekly swim, it seemed churlish to decline. And anyway, I figured, this would be a great thing to Have Done: Arizona Girl Bathes in North Atlantic and Lives to Tell the Tale.

I was met by Ragnheiður Valgarðsdóttir, or Raggý, the head of the association, and three other members: Kristbjörg Rán Valgarðsdóttir, sporting a whimsical flowered swim cap, Kristín

Helgadóttir Komplett, wearing a hand-knitted maroon wool bathing suit over her regular one, and Þóra Kristín Ásgeirsdóttir, the Association’s secretary and “Master of Disaster,” so-called because she has a master’s degree in disaster planning.

The ladies lend me a pair of neoprene boots and gloves—particularly important on colder days, they tell me, noting that the sea is currently 1.6C (35F)—and then whisk me out past the long hot tub and down a ramp to a small cove. Cleverly, my handlers don’t give me any time to rethink what I’m about to do, but simply tell me to walk in at a normal pace without stopping. I’m given a steady stream of encouragements, reminders, and advice, which I try to absorb as I hit the blindingly cold water and walk in up to my waist:

“You have to tell yourself to breathe: you might forget to breathe.”

“It’s important to keep talking, so that we know where everyone is.”

“Think of it like a kind of meditation.”

“Don’t worry: we know CPR.”

A healthy sort of shock

Somewhere behind me, I hear several students running into the water, splashing and screaming. “It’s good to scream sometimes,” Raggý says. “You can scream if you want.”

I don’t want to scream, though, I want to focus. I need to focus. I’m submerged to my shoulders now, but I haven’t gone numb like I expected. Rather, I have a seriously intense case of pins and needles, and my whole body feels like it’s vibrating. Not chattering,

mind you—vibrating.

This is adrenaline, Þóra tells me, and it’s a good thing. The shock your body goes through when it is submerged in water so cold is actually what makes the experience a healthy one. Your immune system goes into hyper-drive, thinking, basically, that your system is under attack. Your blood rushes to your organs to keep them warm, aiding in improved, if temporarily slower, circulation. As your blood circulation slows, tissue swelling decreases, making cold water dips particularly good for anyone who experiences joint pain. And your body expends a huge amount of energy trying to keep warm, burning a lot of calories in the process.

Having bobbed in the shallows for a minute or so, we dog paddle a bit further out, and I notice that my arms and legs aren’t moving quite as well as I might expect them to, driving home the warnings I’ve gotten about not sea swimming alone. The ladies told me that they sometimes stay in the water for as long as twenty minutes, although we wouldn’t be doing that today. (I assume at the time that this is because of me, which is likely true, but later research also indicated that 15 minutes would be at the very outside of how long you could safely stay in water of this temperature.)

My mind starts to wander a bit—I find myself thinking about how more victims aboard the Titanic supposedly died due to hypothermia than drowning. But then, for seemingly no reason at all, everything goes from being incredibly uncomfortable to incredibly awesome. I’m elated, thrilled by the amazing absurdity of wading into Icelandic waters in late November, thrilled by loveliness of the surroundings, by the good-natured company. I feel energised and capable and just really damn cheerful.

The melting pot

After about five minutes, we start heading back to the shallows. Raggý tells me to get out of the water slowly, to take my time readjusting to the air temperature and walking back to the hot tub. It’s a pretty cold day—I arrived in a calf-length thermal coat—but now the air feels like a thick, heavy blanket. It’s like being encased in a marshmallow.

We walk back to the hot tub and

find places on the east end where, unofficially, all the regular sea swimmers sit—the other side is mostly the province of foreign exchange students cupping hot mugs delivered from the snack bar. It’s a surprisingly mixed group of people: serious athletic-types with neoprene swimming hoods, couples, children, groups of women, teens, and even an elderly man who is being helped out of the tub and down to the shoreline when we first sit down. More than half of the people soaking are wearing thick woollen caps.

As I start to defrost, my companions regale me with stories about the Sækýrnar, or Manatees, the channel-swimming team that Raggý, Kristbjörg, and Kristín belong to, and which became the first all-women Icelandic relay team to swim from Dover, England to Sangatte, France in June 2013. They also tell me more about the yearly events put on by the Association, which has around 200 members. There are regular long distance swims: the shorter relays being the 600 metre swim around the Fossvogur bay, and the summer swim to the island of Viðey (900 meters one way).

There are also a wide range of social events—hot tub screenings of “Jaws” and “The Creature from the Black Lagoon,” tub-side literary readings, fashion shows of hand-knitted swimwear, and New Year’s Day dips which find many rushing into the ocean wearing their holiday finest. Watching everyone joke and laugh around me, it’s easy to see that this is an incredibly jovial group of people who obviously enjoy each other’s company—all the more so, I’m sure, because of their unusual shared hobby. This is not, after all, everyone’s idea of fun.

Just before closing time, as the “Baywatch” theme song is piped over the speakers, someone asks if I’ll be back for another dip next week. Yes, I say, without thinking twice. Absolutely.

The Sea Swimming and Sea Bathing Association of Reykjavík is open to new members. The annual fee, which grants you free entrance to yearly events, such as movie screenings at Nauthólsvík, and helps to pay for open swimming events throughout the year, is 3,500 ISK. If you’d like to give sea bathing a try, you can borrow neoprene boots and gloves at the desk and ask to be introduced to members who can accompany you on your first dip. Learn more about the sea-bathing association at <http://sjosund.is/>.



Check it out!

FOR THE BEST PRICE BOOK ONLINE AT:

AIRICELAND.IS

They Said What?

2013: Year In Quotes

Words

Paul Fontaine

The great thing about being important enough that the media hangs on every word you say and write is that your words become public record forever. And by that I mean great for the public. Let's take a look at this weird and unpredictable year, one quote at a time.



"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."

- Directorate of Immigration Director Kristín Völundardóttir claiming that some asylum seekers to Iceland are, in fact, merely tourists. Likely those who also enjoy being arrested and detained upon entry, and then confined to Njarðvík without the right to work for months at a time. Let the good times roll!



"But surely if we can send a man to the moon, we must be able to tackle porn on the internet."

- Halla Gunnarsdóttir, political advisor to the then Minister of the Interior Ögmundur Jónasson, on tentative plans at the ministry to research setting up an internet porn filter around the entire country. These plans have not yet come to fruition.



"It rewrites all that we know. The average European might not notice, but for a sea enthusiast, like myself, this video was just terrible."

- Fisherman Ariel Pétursson, lamenting the inaccurate depiction of sea-faring in the music video for Iceland's 2013 Eurovision entry, Eyþór Ingi Gunnlaugsson's "Ég á líf".



"Apparently incest is a big problem in Iceland because there are only 300,000 people in the country. If you need an app to avoid incest, it's time to move, right?"

- Jimmy Kimmel, repeating an oft-heard refrain about an app that premiered in 2013 which can trace genealogy and cross-reference mutual relatives with surprising accuracy. Or as it came to be known, "the anti-incest app," an angle the international media found hilarious. Stay classy, guys.



"The result from Iceland[']s parliamentary elections] should prompt introspection not just from politicians, but from voters as well. Are our expectations realistic? Is the only way to meet the insatiable demand for growth to build economies based on quicksand?"

- Former Left-Green Chairman Steingrímur J. Sigfússon, on how the leftist government lost the election, i.e., people wanted the bubble back within the span of four years.



"Iceland could be pushed harder, quicker, before the public could have a chance to make their feelings known, and I would not put that past the current US administration."

- Whistleblower Edward Snowden, on why he ultimately did not come to Iceland to seek asylum. Likely not one of those asylum tourists that we heard about.



"In light of the developments that have taken place in recent years in matters of gay, bisexual, and transgender people in Russia, the Human Rights Office and the Mayor's Office have entrusted the deputy mayor to propose amendments to the existing agreement between the two cities or terminate it all together following consultation with the Foreign Ministry."

- Minutes from a Reykjavík city council meeting. And a real long time coming.



"We could save 200-300 million ISK each year by expelling all foreign prisoners, hand them over to authorities in their home countries and prohibit them from returning to Iceland. That way, we would also make space for 20-30 Icelandic prisoners."

- Progressive MP Frosti Sigurjónsson, doing a little cost-benefit analysis on the treatment of prisoners, according to nationality.



"I'm not proud of what I did. I just don't care at all what other people think."

-The owner of an infamous Range Rover often photographed parking illegally, blocking walkways and accessible parking spaces.



"I can attest that if I had to be admitted to the hospital, just speaking for myself, I wouldn't consider it a lot of money to pay 1,200 for each night."

- Chairperson of the Budget Committee Vigdís Hauksdóttir, just puttin' the idea out there to start charging people money to stay in the hospital as a revenue-generator. Fortunately, this budget clause was DOA.



"Can a country of 320,000 people have a National Theatre which uses 900 million ISK [per annum]? Can it have a symphony orchestra which costs 700 million ISK? ... We are 320,000 people. Should we not take a better look at the expenditures before we approve them?"

- Vestmannaeyjabær mayor Elliði Vignisson on government spending priorities. Maybe he's right. While we're at it, does a country of 320,000 really need people to live in different homes? One giant underground fortress should do just fine.



"My reputation is ruined. I don't understand how the ministry could do this to me, I don't understand Iceland."

- Nigerian asylum seeker Tony Omos, shortly before his deportation from Iceland (and separation from his girlfriend and child-to-be), on a leaked memo

which impugned his character while the media was investigating his case. The source of the memo, which evidence strongly suggests came from the ministry, is still unknown.



"I made the mistake of believing what [foreign credit agencies] were saying about the Icelandic banks, because they were giving all of them an extraordinarily clean bill of health -- Moody's, Standard & Poor's, Fitch, all of them."

- Icelandic President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, on why he believed Iceland's banks were as sound as he purported they were to captive audiences across Europe. Of all the things different folks said this year, this bon mot outshines them all for its bald-faced falseness and blame-shifting, and for encapsulating the running mantra amongst former "Outvasion Vikings" and the politicians who cheered for them. Yes, including the guys running the ruling coalition. Three more years!

THE GREEN CHOICE

Premium Quality Vegetarian Food

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



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

1.790 kr.
Vegetarian Dish of the Day

GOLDEN CIRCLE AND MAGICAL NIGHTS

This is a tour that combines the famous Golden Circle with a visit to a geothermal spa with hot spring bathing, dinner and a chance to enjoy the natural magic of the Northern lights!
Price: 29.900 ISK.



ICELANDIC MOUNTAIN GUIDES

MAKE SURE IT'S MOUNTAIN GUIDES

mountainguides.is · icelandrovers.is · mountainguides@mountainguides.is · Tel: +354 587 9999



Lækjarkreppa

Icelandic Cuisine



Scan QR Code for more information.

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

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

Taste the best of Iceland...



... with a spanish undertone

icelandic Gourmet Fiest

Starts with a shot of the infamous Icelandic spirit Brennivín

Than 6 delicious Icelandic tapas:

Smoked puffin with blueberry "brennivín" sauce

Icelandic sea-trout with peppers-salsa
 Lobster tails baked in garlic

Pan-fried line caught blue ling with lobster-sauce

Grilled Icelandic lamb Samfaina
 Minke Whale with cranberry & malt-sauce

To finish our famous Desert:

White chocolate "Skr" mousse with passion fruit coulis

6.690 kr.



The only kitchen in Reykjavík open

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



RESTAURANT-BAR

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



P.8

“Then, he suddenly sprang forth and made a big racket. He started by turning lots of water into a most decent wine. Nobody knows for sure why he did that.”

Reykjavík Mayor Jón Gnarr delivers the uplifting story of how Jesus destroyed the Death Star, rescued Morpheus, and saved Middle Earth in order to inspire us all for the New Year.



P.10

“It is something you learn about in school, but Icelanders more often encounter elves of the Tolkien-kind than the well-dressed, rock-dwelling, baby-snatching Icelandic type.”

Kári Tulinius debunks the myth that Icelanders are a bunch of elf-believers.



P.38

“When I see these games like Mortal Combat and NBA Jam, I sort of want to give them a second life too. Maybe it runs in my family, my mother is sort of like this, she never wants to throw things away.”

If you want to play pinball in Reykjavík, make friends with Þröstur Höskuldsson. He has 16 machines...



P.41

“Indeed, Kent writes that her book was intended to ‘supply a more ambiguous portrayal’ of a woman who many sources credit with being manipulative and conniving, the brains behind a vicious double murder staged while the victims were asleep.”

Australian author Hannah Kent recounts Iceland’s last public executions in her book 'Burial Rites.'



Go Home with a story worth telling!

ARCTIC ADVENTURES FAMILY
anno 1983

OPEN EVERYDAY FROM 8AM-10PM

- Ice Climbing
- Glacier Hike
- Horse Riding
- Snorkeling
- Diving
- Caving
- Snowmobile
- ATV
- Super-Jeep
- Sightseeing
- Combo Trip

arctic adventures

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

EXPERIENCE A GREAT EVENING WITH US!



Reykjavik Excursions
KYNNISFERÐIR

Free WiFi Hotspot on board our coaches.

SRE-64 Warm baths & Cool Lights
SRE-63 Glacier & Monster Truck Adventure!
RE-62 Northern Lights Tour

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

The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

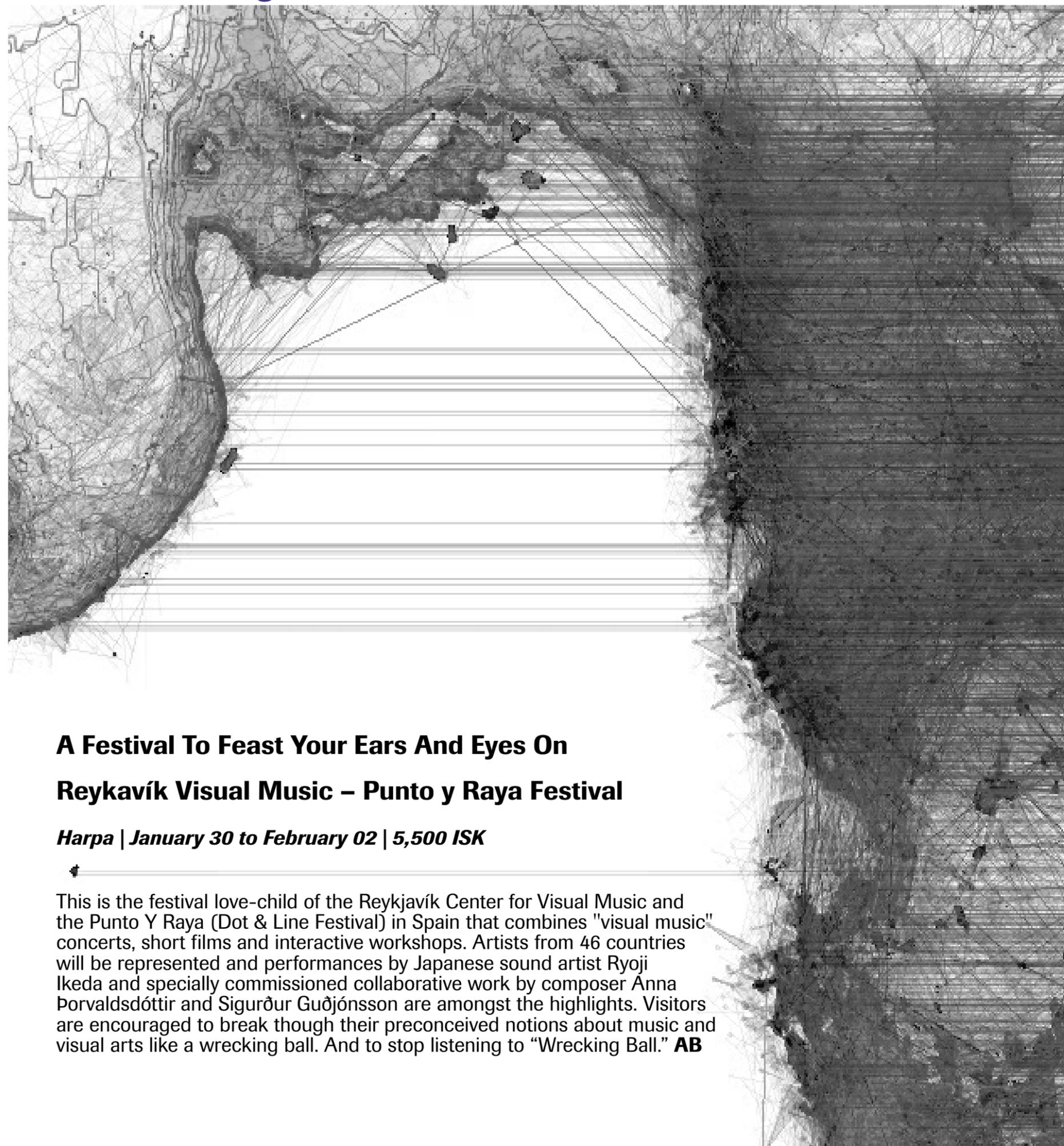
INFO

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

Issue 1 - 2014

www.grapevine.is

Your essential guide to life, travel and entertainment in Iceland



A Festival To Feast Your Ears And Eyes On Reykjavík Visual Music – Punto y Raya Festival

Harpa | January 30 to February 02 | 5,500 ISK

This is the festival love-child of the Reykjavík Center for Visual Music and the Punto Y Raya (Dot & Line Festival) in Spain that combines "visual music" concerts, short films and interactive workshops. Artists from 46 countries will be represented and performances by Japanese sound artist Ryoji Ikeda and specially commissioned collaborative work by composer Anna Þorvaldsdóttir and Sigurður Guðjónsson are amongst the highlights. Visitors are encouraged to break through their preconceived notions about music and visual arts like a wrecking ball. And to stop listening to "Wrecking Ball." **AB**



Advertisement

MUSIC

CONCERTS & NIGHTLIFE

Jan. 10 - Feb. 6

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

Friday January 10

Café Rosenberg
22:00 Ljótu hálfvitarnir
Den Danske Kro
21:00 Troubadours Tryggvi / Biggi Dillon
22:00 Darknote / Jötunmóð
English Pub
21:00 Troubadours Ingi Valur / Hjálmar & Dagur
Brikk
21:00 DJ Pabbi
Gamli Gaukurinn
21:00 Ojba Rasta / Hide Your Kids
Harlem
22:00 Danni Deluxe / Terrordisco
Harpa
19:30 Viennese favourites – The Iceland Symphony Orchestra
Paloma
22:00 Habbi Neró (DJ Dauði)

Saturday January 11

B5
22:00 DJ Jónas Óli
Brikk
21:00 KGB
Den Danske Kro
21:00 Troubadours Tryggvi / Biggi
English Pub
20:00 Troubadours Dani & Jon / Biggi
Gamli Gaukurinn
22:00 Illgresi Bluegrass Night
Harlem
22:00 Pedro Pilatus / Bitte Schön
Harpa
16:00 Viennese favourites – The Iceland Symphony Orchestra
Mengi
21:00 Hilmar Jensson
Paloma
22:00 Good Moon Deer (DJ Set)

Sunday January 12

Brikk
21:00 Jazz night
Den Danske Kro
21:00 Troubadour Tryggvi
English Pub
20:00 Troubadour Dani

Monday January 13

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Ingi Valur
English Pub
20:00 Troubadour Tryggvi

Tuesday January 14

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Gunni
English Pub
20:00 Troubadour Ingi Valur

Wednesday January 15

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Hreimur
English Pub
20:00 Troubadour Hjálmar & Dagur
Gamli Gaukurinn
22:00 Urban Lumber / Blær

Thursday January 16

Brikk
21:00 DJ Arnar "beib"
Gamli Gaukurinn
22:00 Narthraal / Aeterna / Wistaria
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Pétur
English Pub
20:00 Troubadours Svalur and Valur
Harlem
21:00 Good Moon Deer / DJ Flugvél og Geimskip / Just Another Snake Cult / DJ Silla
Harpa
19:30 Young Soloists – The Iceland Symphony Orchestra
Mengi
21:00 Snorri Helgason
Paloma
22:00 DJ Rafla
Stúdentakjallarinn
21:00 Stúdentakjallarinn's First Birthday Festival

Friday January 17

B5
22:00 DJ Jónas Óli
Brikk
21:00 KGB
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadours Roland / Hjálmar & Dagur
English Pub
21:00 Troubadours Hjálmar & Dagur / Troubadour Erikur
Gamli Gaukurinn
22:00 Amaba Dama / RVK Sound-system / Cell7
Harlem
22:00 DJ Óli Dóri / DJ Housekell

16

January



First Birthday With Bands And Booze Stúdentakjallarinn's First Birthday Festival

Stúdentakjallarinn | Jan. 16, 21:00 | Free!

If you're a student who spends more time at Stúdentakjallarinn ("The Student Bar") than actually in class, it's time to honour this sacred temple of the University of Iceland. Stúdentakjallarinn will celebrate having survived their first year of life with a two-day bash featuring Ojba Rasta, Agent Fresco, Tilbury and Retro Stefson. Stúdentakjallarinn as we know it today opened in December of 2012 and has since helped students enjoy and self-medicate their way through higher education. If we've learned anything from Stúdentakjallarinn, it's that knowledge is good, and so is beer. **AB**



Spreading Some Island Sun Ojba Rasta and Hide Your Kids

Gamli Gaukurinn | Jan. 10, 22:00 | Free!

Hit reggae band Ojba Rasta will be bringing the groove at Gamli Gaukurinn along with Hide Your Kids. Ojba Rasta's second album, which was released in October 2013 titled 'Friður,' has brought them to the forefront of the Icelandic reggae scene with their smooth rhythms and classy brass. Guitars will tune, trumpets will ring, saxophones will sing, and organs will... well, you get the idea. But in all seriousness, whatever happens, it's sure to be an absolutely amazing night that you certainly don't want to miss. **BS**

Photo by Alda Villiljós from Ravenlight Photography



Reykjavik Museum of Photography

Exhibitions all year round
ADMISSION FREE

LJÓSMYNDASAFN
REYKJAVÍKUR
Reykjavik Museum of Photography

GRÓFARHÚS 6th Floor
Tryggvagata 15, 101 Reykjavik
Opening Hours: Mon–Thu 12–19
Fridays 12–18, Weekends 13–17
www.photomuseum.is

laUNDROMAT
YES
WE
CAN...

...WASH YOUR CLOTHES!

www.thelaundromatcafe.com



laUNDROMAT
GO AHEAD &
BREASTFEED
WE LIKE
BOTH
BABIES
AND BOOBS!

www.thelaundromatcafe.com

Harpa
20:30 A musical outburst in Harpa with Vocal Project
Mengi
21:00 Arnljótur Sigurðsson
Paloma
22:00 Dj Kári

Saturday January 18

B5
22:00 DJ Árni
Brikk
21:00 Housekell
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadours Ingi Valur / Biggi
Dolly
23:00 RVK Soundsystem Reggae Night
21:00 DJ Flugvél og Geimskip
English Pub
21:00 Troubadour Ingi Valur
Harlem
22:00 Ojba Rasta (DJ Set) / Good Moon Deer (DJ Set)

Sunday January 19

Brikk
21:00 Jazz night
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Tryggvi
English Pub
21:00 Troubadour Dani
Harpa
19:30 Bach's Cello Suites at the Chamber Music Society

Monday January 20

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Fannar
English Pub
21:00 Troubadour Ingi Valur

Tuesday January 21

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Roland
English Pub
21:00 Troubadour Tryggvi

Wednesday January 22

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Hreimur
English Pub
21:00 Troubadours Biggi and Maggi

Thursday January 23

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Pétur
English Pub
22:00 Troubadour Erikur
Gamli Gaukurinn
22:00 Páll Ívan / DJ Flugvél og Geimskip
Harlem
22:00 Hits & Tits Karaoke Night
Harpa
19:30 Víkingur plays Brahms - The Iceland Symphony Orchestra
KEX Hostel
19:00 Burns Night Festival
Paloma
22:00 Harry Knuckles

Friday January 24

Bar 11
22:00 Morgan Kane & Saktmóðigur
Brikk
21:00 Plan B
Den Danske Kro
21:00 Troubadour Gunni / Ingi and Tryggvi
English Pub
21:00 Troubadours Ingi Valur / Svalur and Valur
Harlem
22:00 DJ Kári / DJ Yamaho
Harpa
19:30 Víkingur plays Brahms - The Iceland Symphony Orchestra
Paloma
22:00 DJ Árni Sveins

Saturday January 25

Brikk
21:00 DJ Óli Dóri
Gamli Gaukurinn
22:00 Frost
Den Danske Kro
21:00 Troubadour Fannar / Biggi
English Pub
21:00 Troubadours Hjalmar & Dagur / Gunni & Steinir
Harlem
22:00 Emmsjé Gauti & Sura DJ Set / Benni B-Ruff & Pedro Pilatus
Mengi
21:00 Tinna Þorsteinsdóttir
Paloma
22:00 DJ KGB

Sunday January 26

Brikk
21:00 Jazz night
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Tryggvi
English Pub
21:00 Troubadour Dani
Harpa
16:00 Young Voices – Aðalsteinn Már Ólafsson

Monday January 27

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Fannar
English Pub
21:00 Troubadour Tryggvi

Tuesday January 28



Hear The Mammoth's Roar
Mammút Album Release Concert

Gamla Bíó | Jan. 30, 21:00 | 2,900 ISK

Mammút's third album 'Komdu til mín svarta systir' ("Come To Me Black Sister") has been a long time in the making, and has received critical praise topping charts and winning several awards. The album is melancholic and grim, addressing the darkness that resides in each person, so expect to come away from the concert emotionally moved. But don't worry, it's the good kind of emotionally moved, and Mammút have a super energetic stage presence. **TGB**

Photo by Alda Villiljós from Ravenlight Photography



Dark Music For Dark Days
Dark Music Days 2014

Harpa | Jan. 30 to Feb. 02 | 9,900 ISK

Dark Music Days was established in 1980 by the Society of Icelandic Composers to celebrate new and experimental music. The festival opens with a performance by the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra and showcases performances by saxophone concerto composer Áskell Másson as well as a programme dedicated to the works of Páll Ragnar Pálsson, a contemporary composer and former guitarist of rock band Maus. Dark Days will be collaborating with the Punto Y Raya festival to combine contemporary orchestral music with the visual arts of Punto. The New York Times describes it as, "ever-diversifying... a hot ticket in a cultural hotspot." We describe it as, "Ten-times more hot than a new ticket to a culturally diverse spot in New York." **AB**

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Gunni
English Pub
21:00 Troubadour Ingi Valur
Harpa
20:00 The Sound of Brass Through Harpa #3: Reykjavík City Band
20:00 The Etudes by Philip Glass

Wednesday January 29

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Hreimer
English Pub
21:00 Troubadour Erikur

Thursday January 30

Paloma
22:00 Nolo (DJ Set)
Brikk
21:00 DJ Arnar "beib"
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Pétur
English Pub
21:00 Troubadours Svalur and Valur
Gamla Bíó
21:00 Mammút Album Release Concert
Harlem
22:00 Lady Boy Records DJs
Harpa
19:30 Dark Music Days
22:00 Reykjavík Visual Music – Punto y Raya Festival
Mengi
21:00 Hugleikur Dagsson Stand Up

Friday January 31

Brikk
21:00 Plan B

Den Danske Kro
21:00 Troubadour Tryggvi / Hjalmar & Dagur
English Pub
21:00 Troubadours Ingi Valur / Biggi & Maggi
Harlem
22:00 DJ KGB / Steindor Jonsson
Harpa
19:30 Dark Music Days
22:30 Reykjavík Visual Music – Punto y Raya Festival
Mengi
21:00 VJ Ásdis Sif Gunnarsdóttir
Paloma
22:00 Magnús Dýri (DJ Maggi Lego)

Saturday February 01

Den Danske Kro
21:00 Troubadour Tryggvi / Hjalmar & Dagur
English Pub
21:00 Troubadours Biggi & Maggi / Svalur & Valur
Harpa
11:00 Dark Music Days
22:30 Reykjavík Visual Music – Punto y Raya Festival 2014 : Ryoji Ikeda – datamatics [ver.2.0]
Tjarnarbíó
21:00 Dusty Miller Record Release Concert

Sunday February 02

English Pub
21:00 Troubadour Dani
Harpa
11:00 Dark Music Days
19:00 Reykjavík Visual Music – Punto y Raya Festival



Lebowski BAR

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

Den Danske Kro



HAPPY HOUR 16-19 EVERY DAY
LIVE MUSIC EVERY NIGHT



Ingólfsstræti 3 · 101 Reykjavík · 552-0070

ART

OPENINGS AND ONGOING

Jan. 10 - Feb. 6

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

Anarkía

January 11
Kristbergur Ó. Pétursson's new painting exhibit is inspired by, and makes several references to, the Hafnarfjörður lava fields, directly and indirectly.

Runs until February 2

ASÍ Art Museum

Ingileif Thorlacius - Retrospect

January 11
Ingileif Thorlacius (1961-2010) studied at The Icelandic School of Arts and Crafts and Jan van Eyck Academy in Maastricht, Netherlands. Her works cover a range of different mediums; oil paintings, watercolors, drawings and sculptures.

Runs Until February 9

Borgarleikhúsið

Trilogy Dance Performance

The Iceland Dance Company's new show, Trilogy, showcases three short performances influenced by classical ballet, contemporary dance and breakdance. Admission: 4,500 ISK.

Shown on February 1, 8, 16, 23, March 3 and 9

Katrín Sigurðardóttir: Foundation

January 25
Katrín Sigurðardóttir's installation consists of a raised floor which extends beyond the walls of the exhibition space and handmade tiles with intricate patterns in the Baroque style. Katrín's installation was Iceland's contribution to the Venice Biennale in 2013.

Runs Until April 13

Kunstschlager

January 18
Artists Ragnhildur Jóhann and Jóhann Ludvig Torfason open an exhibition of language and images, using (or misusing) language from various fractions of text, poems and phrases, that become works on the border of text and image. They define the exhibition as "visual poetry," where the representation of text is graphical or picturesque.

Runs until February 1

Mokka Kaffi

January 10
Artist Kristján Jón will exhibit a series of red and black chalk drawings from the protected Gálgahrun lava fields.

Runs Until February 13

The National Museum of Iceland and The Reykjavík Museum of Photography

From a Different Angle: Photography by Icelandic Women 1872-2013

January 25
The exhibition features a hundred pictures taken by Icelandic women in the past 125 years, and showcases what women have been doing in that period. The pictures are sourced both from amateur and professional photographers, and shown in the two museums simultaneously.

Runs until May 11

Nordic House

Nordic bookwork/art books

January 25
A group of artists from Denmark, Finland, The Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden exhibit Art books in The Nordic House exhibition halls.

Runs until February 23

Reykjavík Art Museum - Ásmundarsafn

"I've never seen figurative electricity"

January 18
The exhibition displays works by Icelandic sculptor Ásmundur Sveinsson (1893-1982) along with new works by nine Icelandic contemporary artists. By highlighting abstract works from the later period of his career, the exhibition seeks to shed light on similarities found in works of contemporary art today.

Runs until April 27



Dance, Dance, Baby Iceland Dance Company: Trilogy

Borgarleikhúsið | Feb. 1, 8, 16, 23 & Mar. 3, 19 | 4,500 ISK

The Iceland Dance Company is premiering a performance involving three short plays named 'Trilogy.' The show includes 'Luggage,' a play seeking inspiration from memory and its constant development, 'Berserks: Mad as Wolves, Soft as Lambs,' which is spiced with Nordic mythology and athletic displays and 'Variations,' which features Jean Sibelius's "Themes and Variations for Solo Cello" played to a solo dance with Ellen Margrét Bæhrenz (pictured). If you're into ballet, break dance or contemporary dance, the Iceland Dance Company's 'Trilogy' show will definitely be for you. **TGB**

Reykjavík Art Museum - Hafnarhús

Cadences of Line and Color

February 1
This exhibition showcases works of art in the spirit of "visual music." It is made up of three parts, the historical background of the art form, a new installation that combines video work with an electronic/piano composition, and forty smaller works that illustrate the relationship between music and abstract art in Iceland.

Runs Until April 13

Reykjavík Art Museum - Kjarvalsstaðir

The Seasons in Kjarval's Art

February 1
Every season imbues the land with new life, and every cloud sheds new colour upon the mountains. This exhibit focuses on how land and saga merge to become one in the works of Jóhannes Kjarval.

Runs until October 12

SÍM (CIA)

Anna María Lind Geirsdóttir - Jeans and Shirts

January 7
Anna María Lind Geirsdóttir will open an exhibit of woven textiles made from jeans and shirts in an attempt to take a job at the "society of plenty" that discards these items. It's also a nod to the clothing of rebellious youths like James Dean and Marlon Brando.

Runs until January 24

Þjóðleikhúsið

Óraunveruleikar

The dance performance Óraunveruleikar ("Unrealities") will be performed by writers Urður Hákonardóttir, Valgerður Rúnarsdóttir and Pyri Huld. It's built from research on reality and the limits of imagination. Admission 2,500 ISK.

Shown on January 16, 17, 25 and 26.

Poka

The Days Of The Child Prodigy Are Over

January 11
Rakel McMahon and Bergþóra Snæbjörnsdóttir present a new exhibit focusing on the existence and consequences of being a child prodigy. It consists of a drawings, poems and text, and is the culmination of a project started in 2011.

Runs Until February 16

Ongoing

Árbær Museum

A guided tour in English through this open air museum, which consists of twenty buildings happens daily at 13:00. Admission 1,100 ISK.

On permanent view

Artótek

Inga Elín Kristinsdóttir's new exhibit is a multi-medium one featuring oil paintings, light sculptures and lamps and chandeliers of different kinds.

Runs Until January 31

The Culture House

An exhibit showcasing principal medieval manuscripts, such as Codices Regii of the Poetic Edda, Prose Edda, law codices and Christian works, and 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, including 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.

On permanent view

The Einar Jónsson Museum

The museum contains close to 300 artworks including a beautiful garden with 26 bronze casts of the artist's sculptures.

On permanent view

Hverfisgallerí

Exhibition by Tumi Magnússon
Mixed media artist Tumi Magnússon will display paintings and video that have to do with phones and phone calls.

Runs until February 22

THE APPY HOUR GUIDE

Every Happy Hour in town in your pocket. Free for iPhone and Android.



The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO LIFE, TRAVEL & ENTERTAINMENT IN ICELAND

Great selection of handknit sweaters



...or just knit them yourself

All you need in one place

Handknitting Association of Iceland

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

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

• Laugavegur 53b
tel.: (+354) 562 1890

www.handknit.is



ONLY SWEATER SELECTION, NO KNITTING MATERIAL





The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

IN YOUR POCKET

WHAT'S INSIDE

Reykjavík Map | Happy Hour Guide | Places We Like | Best Of Reykjavík | Practical Info

Reykjavík

January 10 - February 6

Keep it in your pocket

Four Weeks

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

25 - 11
Jan May

One Hundred And Twenty Five
Years Of Femininity

7 - 24
January

Denim Dream
Jeans Like James Dean



From a Different Angle:
Photography by Icelandic Women 1872-2013
National Museum of Iceland and the Reykjavík Museum of Photography

The exhibition features a collection of 100 pictures taken by Icelandic women in the past 125 years and gives a real peek at how women have lived, what they've done and their roles in society during that time. If you are curious to see the progression of women's place in society through the years from massive archives of amateur and professional photographers, then you'll want to check out both museums as they show separate pieces of the collection at the same time. **TGB**

January 18, 19, 25 & 26 **COME OUT TO THE GARDEN**

If you fancy a trip out of the city, consider going to Garðurinn by Keflavík airport where the international art festival **Fresh Winds in Garður** takes place. A total of 50 artists from 19 countries travelled there and have spent five weeks in residence, preparing art exhibits, performances, live music and other fun activities. It's not too far away, so go on, have a cultural weekend.

January 16, 17, 25 & 26 **ENTER THE UNREALITIES**

A dance troupe has put together a new play based on the intersection on reality and the limitations of imagination, where the senses are offered a trip into the impossibly real. The troupe consists of **Urður Hákonadóttir** of Gusgus, **Valgerður Rúnarsdóttir** of the Reykjavík Dance Festival and **Þyri Hult** of the Iceland Dance Company. It is shown at **Þjóðleikhúsið**.

January 16 **NIGHT OF GROOVE Good Moon Deer** are heading out to explore the world and have totally rad adventures, so they have a goodbye gig with **DJ Flugvél og Geimskip** and **Just Another Snake Cult** at **Harlem** at 21:00.



Anna María Lind Geirsdóttir - Jeans and Shirts
SÍM (Icelandic Association of Visual Artists)

Anna María Lind Geirsdóttir will open an exhibit of woven textiles made from jeans and shirts. The exhibit is an extension of "Cotton Rags," another textile installation she did at Graffíkfélagið in 2012. She works with jeans and shirts in an attempt to take a jab at the "society of plenty" that discards these items. It's also a jarty celebration of the clothing of rebellious youth like James Dean and Marlon Brando. **AB**

19 - 19
Dec. Jan.

Forest Friends
Don't Knock The Conifer



Sara Riel - Barabarrtré
Týs Gallerí

Sara Riel has a new exhibition called Barabarrtré ("Only-Conifer") that challenges Icelanders' habit of shunning conifer trees eleven months of the year, but then turning them into altars for presents over the holidays. The exhibit includes a painting of a tree with features of several different kinds of conifer, and shotgun shells filled with conifer seeds for aspiring foresting activists. Sara's exhibit promises to leave you pondering what sort of balance there is to strike between Iceland's wide horizon and further foresting efforts. **TGB**



SOUVENIR SHOP
SHOP OF THE YEAR 2012

THE VIKING
FAMILY BUSINESS FOR 50 YEARS

The viking:info

Laugavegur 1 • Reykjavík
Hálfarstræti 1 - 3 • Reykjavík
Hálfarstræti 104 • Akureyri
Adalstræti 27 • Ísafirður

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



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



We are open every day.
www.kraum.is

Kraum
icelandic design

A

Cleanliness is next to godliness
John Wesley 1778



B

Café Loki
in front of Hallgrímskirkja



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

C

MAP

Places We Like

Food

1 The Coccoo's Nest

Grandagarður 23

Nestled in an old fishing hut in the flourishing area of Grandi is a new Californian deli with an Italian twist. What is a Californian deli? You'll have to pay them a visit to find out. The owners, Íris and Lucas, have put much thought and work into every square inch of the place, creating a cosy and warm atmosphere. If you are in that part of town, head over to get your brunch or lunch fill of the day.

2 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 'Skyronnaisé' sauce is a special treat, and their clean, casual location by the harbour is full of charm.

3 Lebowski Bar

Laugavegur 20a

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

4 Santa Karamba

Laugavegur 55b

Blow your nose and toss your cap out the window, Santa Karamba has brought the fire from south-of-the-border down Mexico way! They're willing to share it with you at Laugavegur 55. This fine new establishment features classic Mexican dishes, domestic beers, and a colourful candy skull mural. Viva comida! Viva Islandia! Viva México!!

5 Yummi Yummi

Hlemmur, Hverfisgata 123

After long years of lamenting the lack of quick, greasy and satisfying Asian fast-food in town, the owners of Thai super-restaurant Ban Thai have graced us with this pan-fried saviour! The dishes are super cheap at 1000 ISK each, the service is super fast but totally fresh and what seems like a small dish will stuff you full. They now do home delivery as well! Oh, happy day.

Drinking

6 Prikíð

Bankastræti 12

Prikíð is one of those places that shape-shifts. It's a warm café lined with photographs of its senior frequenters on weekdays, a hung-over hangout on weekend afternoons, and during nights it's filled to the brim with what remains of Iceland's hip hop scene. Go there in the daytime for the cheap burgers; enter at night for some OTT hip-hop debauchery, old skool and the latest bangers alike.

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 Tuborg beer and Akvavit schnapps and proudly promote the Danish tradition of daytime drinking. 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."

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 Lág-múla 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 Micro Bar

Austurstræti 6

Micro Bar sits snuggled up behind the lobby of City Center Hotel and offers Reykjavík's best selection of microbrew beers, served by knowledgeable and polite staff. This is one of the few bars in Reykjavík where you can have a conversation with your mates without having to shout over live bands or loud music.

Public transport

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

Opening Hours

Bars and clubs: According to regulations, bars can stay open until 01:00 on weekdays and 04:30 on weekends.

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

9 Stúdentakjallarinn

Háskólatorg, Sæmundargata 4

The University of Iceland's newly built student lounge has quickly become the place to be on campus. They boast a solid menu of tasty and inexpensive pub-grub, a nice selection of drinks and beers on tap to help unwind after classes, and regularly host concerts to help you rock out with your meal.

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

Swimming pools: Weekdays 06:30-22:00 and weekends 09:00-17:00, although each pool varies plus or minus a few hours.

Banks in the centre are open Mon.-Fri. 09:00-16:00.

Post Offices

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



LIVE MUSIC EVERY NIGHT

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

THE ENGLISH PUB
Save Water, Drink Beer

AUSTURSTRÆTI 12 • 101 REYKJAVÍK • ENSKIBARINN@ENSKIBARINN.IS

D

New In Town



13 Mengi

Óðinsgata 2

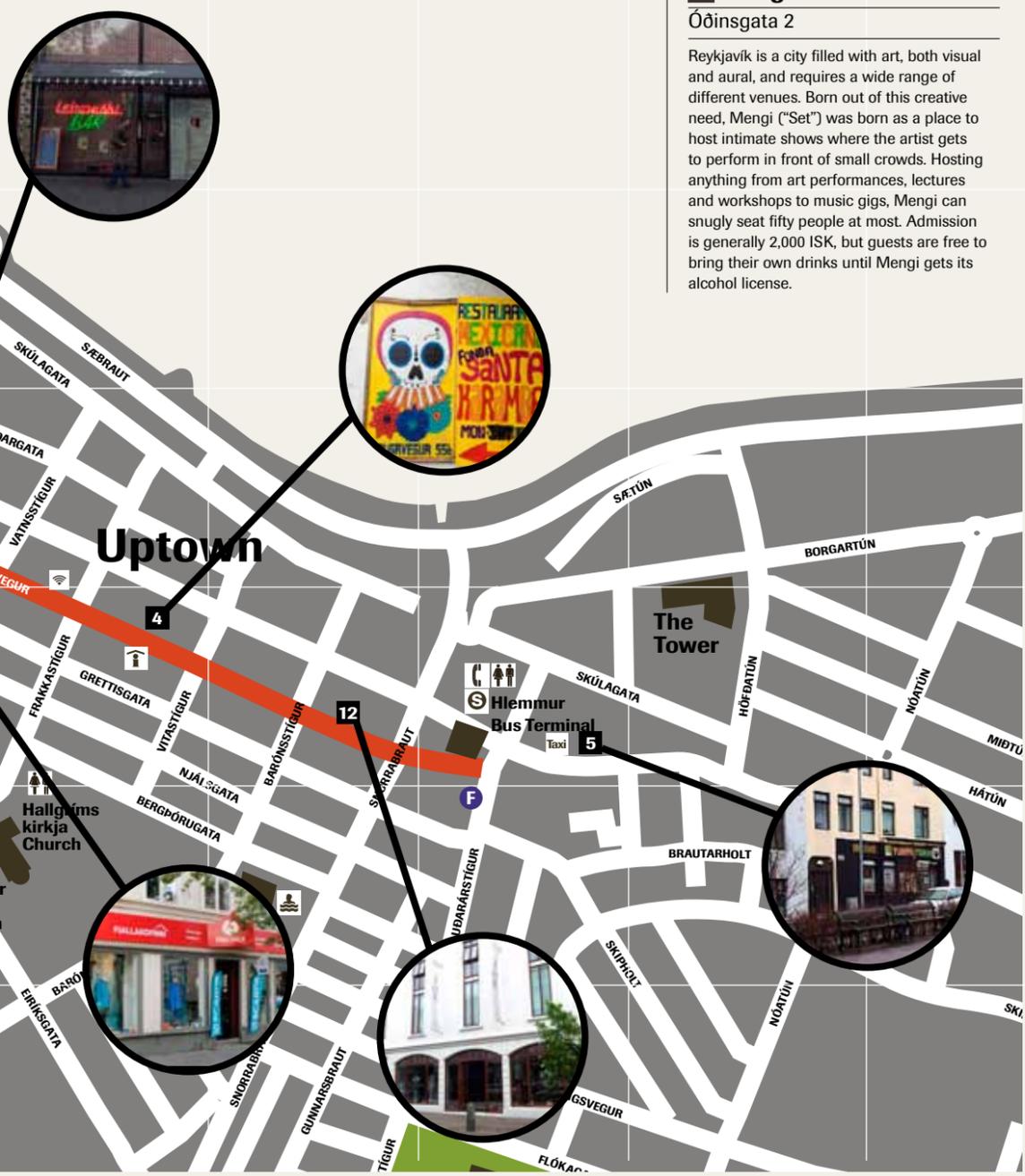
Reykjavik is a city filled with art, both visual and aural, and requires a wide range of different venues. Born out of this creative need, Mengi ("Set") was born as a place to host intimate shows where the artist gets to perform in front of small crowds. Hosting anything from art performances, lectures and workshops to music gigs, Mengi can snugly seat fifty people at most. Admission is generally 2,000 ISK, but guests are free to bring their own drinks until Mengi gets its alcohol license.

Venue Finder Music & Entertainment

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

Museums & Galleries

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



Uptown

Shopping

10 Farmers Market

Grandi, Hólmaslóð 2

This design company and fashion line holds the integral values of sustainability, longevity, originality and environmentalism. Their modern take on the traditional Icelandic lopapeysa has struck chords worldwide. These are must-have items for locals and visitors alike.

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

11 Fjallakofinn

Laugavegur 11

If outdoor sporting is your bag, then Fjallakofinn is your kind of place, baby. This shop full of experts will set you up with all your climbing, hiking, camping, skiing and general good-times-in-nature needs.

Public Toilets

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

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.

12 JÖR

Laugavegur 89

This high-end men's fashion boutique caters to those whose bodies only tolerate the finest fabrics and most delicate of tailoring. Head designer Guðmundur Jörundsson, who honed his craft in the exclusive haberdasher Kormaks & Skjaldar, gives impeccable attention to each item, leaving the wearer feeling like a million bucks.

ICELANDIC Fish, Lamb & Chicken
in original PAKISTANI curries

Tandoori dishes, Nan breads
Kebabs, Samosas & Vegetarian specialities



simply delicious

SHALIMAR

PAKISTANI CUISINE

AUSTURSTRÆTI 4, 101 REYKJAVÍK 5510292
WWW.SHALIMAR.IS SHALIMAR@SHALIMAR.IS



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



HAFNARSTRÆTI 5 &
SKÓLAVÖRÐUSTÍGUR 10

HORNIÐ
Restaurant - Pizzeria



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

Lunch offers every day.

Open every day from 11.00 to 23.30

For reservations call 551-3340



G

LUCKY RECORDS

**NEW & USED
VINYL RECORDS
CDs • DVDs • POSTERS**



We are open every day until 10pm

RAUÐARÁRSTÍGUR 10
105 REYKJAVÍK
Tel: 551 1195
www.luckyrecords.is

F

E



VARMA

THE TIMELESS WARMTH OF ICELAND



VARMA IS DEDICATED TO MAINTAINING ICELANDIC TRADITION IN DEVELOPING, DESIGNING AND MANUFACTURING QUALITY GARMENTS AND ACCESSORIES FROM THE BEST ICELANDIC WOOL AND SHEEPSKIN SHEARLING.



VARMA IS AVAILABLE IN MAIN TOURIST SHOPS AROUND ICELAND

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND

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



ÞJÓÐMINJASAFN ÍSLANDS
National Museum of Iceland
www.thjodminjasafn.is
Suðurgata 41 / 101 Reykjavík

Now offering catering service!

sushibarinn

laugavegur 2 101 reykjavik ☎ 552 4444

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

Best Of Reykjavík

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



BEST SOUP: KRYDDLEGIN HJÖRTU



It's kind of surprising, but Reykjavík is quite the soup town, what with so many places offering their own take on the classic meat soup, lobster soup and other crazy blends. Only Kryddlegin Hjörtu ("the spicy heart") really specialises in soup though, and the soup-lovers on our panel were all pretty adamant of its top-dog status. The buffet-style restaurant offers four different soups a day alongside a colourful, healthy and fresh salad bar. We admit that not ALL their broths are Soup Nazi-great, but most of them are so fucking delicious. Plus, the owner washes all the vegetables in crystals. CRYSTALS

Located at Skúlagata 17

A GUIDE THAT FUCKS YOU UP

A list of every Happy Hour in 101 Reykjavík

101 Hótel
Every day from 17:00-19:00. Beer 475 ISK and wine 595 ISK.

Austur
Thursday to Saturday from 20:00 to 00:00
Beer 800 ISK and wine 800 ISK.

B5
Every day from 16:00-22:00. Beer 550 ISK, cider 700 ISK, wine 550 ISK.

Bar 11
Thursdays to Saturdays from 21:00-00:00. Beer 500 ISK.

Bjarni Fel
Monday to Friday from 21:00-23:00. 2 for 1 one Beer 990 ISK, one single shot with soda 1300 ISK or with energy drink 1400 ISK.

Boston
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00.
Beer 550 ISK, Wine 550 ISK.

Bunk Bar
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00.
Wine 700 ISK, Beer 2 for 1 900 ISK.

Celtic Cross
Every day from 17:00 to 20:00.
Beer for 600 ISK.

Den Danske Kro
Every day from 16:00-19:00. 2 for 1 Beer 950 ISK, 2 for 1 Guinness 1000 ISK and 2 for 1 wine 1000 ISK.

Dillon
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00.
Beer, Wine and Whisky 550 ISK.

Dolly
Tuesday to Thursday from 20:00 to 22:00, Friday and Saturday from 17:00-22:00. Beer 500 ISK, wine 500 ISK.

Dubliner
Every day from opening - 22:00. 2 for 1 Tuborg 1000 ISK, 2 for 1 wine 1000 ISK, Shot of Jameson 900 ISK.

Einar Ben
Every day from 19:00 to 21:00.
Beer 500 ISK.



BEST PLACE TO CHEER UP: HÚSDÝRAGARÐURINN



Another third time winner, Reykjavík's petting zoo is just perfect if you've got a terminal case of the blues. There are few things as uplifting as watching the baby seal cubs swimming around in their massive pool, or watching those adorable lambs take their first shaky steps on the green meadows. If you've got a dark sense of humour, you can also cheer up over the fact that at the end of summer the seal cubs get fed to the foxes, and members of the staff eat the oh-so tender lambs.

Located at Múlavegur 2

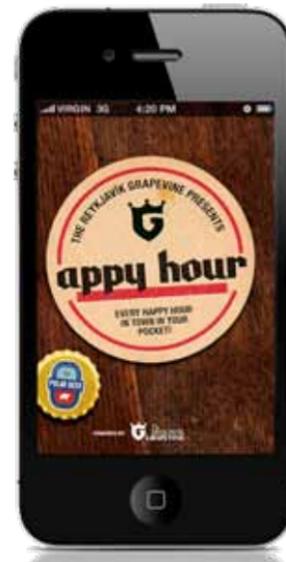


BEST RECORD STORE: LUCKY RECORDS



Now in its huge new digs on Rauðarástígur, Lucky Records is likely to win BEST RECORD STORE for all perpetuity. It's not just the great selection of records that makes Lucky the best, it's also the store's personality, which has only gotten better since the move. Many of us are devoted customers and we are so proud to see them doing great things. Luck really is on their side.

Located at Rauðarástígur 10



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.

Gamli Gaukurinn
Every day from 21:00 - 22:00.
Thule beer 500 ISK, single shot 500 ISK.

Glaumbar
Monday to Thursday from 21:00 - 1:00. Friday to Saturday 21:00 - 4:30. Beer 390 ISK.

Harlem
Every day from 17:00 to 22:00.
Beer 550 ISK, wine 700 ISK.

Hilton Hotel Bar
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00.
All drinks half price.

Hótel 1919
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00. Beer 600 ISK, Wine 575 ISK, Cocktail of the Day half price.

Hótel Holt Gallery Bar
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00. Beer 650 ISK, wine 750 ISK, cocktail of the day 1200 ISK

Hótel Natura
Every day from 16:00 to 18:00.
50 percent off all drinks, beer 475 ISK (Tuborg), wine 625 ISK.

Hótel Plaza Bar
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00. Beer 500 ISK.

Iða Zimsen
Coffee happy hour every day from 8:00-10:00. All coffee 300 ISK. Alcohol from 19:00-22:00
Beer (Gull, Tuborg) 445 ISK

Kaffi Kompaníð
Thursday to Sunday from 14:00 to 17:00.
2 for 1 beer 850 ISK, wine 700 ISK.

Kaldibar
Every day from 17:00 to 20:00.
2 for 1 on beer and wine.

Kiki Queer Bar
Thursdays from 20:00 to 22:00.
Beer 450 ISK, wine 600 ISK.

Kolabrautin
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00.
Beer 450 ISK, Wine 700 ISK, Cocktails from 1000 ISK, Champagne glass 1500 ISK.

Lebowski Bar
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00.
2 for 1 beer 900 ISK and wine for 1100 ISK.

Loft Hostel Bar
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00.
Beer 500 ISK, cider 500 ISK, wine 700 ISK.

Micro Bar
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00. Beer 600 ISK.

Miðgarður Bistro bar
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00. All drinks half price, Beer 500 ISK, Wine 600 ISK.

Nora Magasin
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00. Viking Beer for 500 ISK, House Wine for 600 ISK.

Prikið
Monday to Friday from 16:00 to 20:00. 2 for 1 Viking 750 ISK, Viking Classic 850 ISK.

Roadhouse
Friday and Saturday 22:00 to 23:00.
2 for 1 Beer 895 ISK, Wine 895 ISK.

Santa Karamba
Monday to Saturday from 16:00 to 20:00.
Beer 500 ISK.

SKY Bar & Lounge
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00. Beer 500 ISK, Wine 800 ISK.

Slippbarinn
Every day from 16:00 to 18:00. Beer 500 ISK, Wine 500 ISK, selected cocktails 950 ISK.

Stofan
Every day from 17:00 to 20:00.
Beer 650 ISK and Wine 800 ISK.

Pingholtsbar
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00. Beer 500 ISK.

ART ONGOING

– continued –

i8 Gallery

Hörður Ágústsson, Camilla Löw, Sergio Sister, Thór Vigfússon

This show combines the work of three artists coming from different generations. It focusses on the differences and similarities in matters of style and the ideas behind their projects.

Runs until February 1

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

Kling & Bang

Ragnar Kjartansson – The Visitors

A nine-channel video installation depicting the bohemian gathering of a group of friends and musicians in Upstate New York. Takes its title from ABBA's last album, which was marked by divorce and defeat. Performing musicians and poets almost entirely from Reykjavik music scene.

Runs until February 9

Knitting Iceland

Whether you are a beginner or pro, you can come knit at Laugavegur 25, 3rd floor, every Thursday, 14:00 – 18:00.

On permanent view

National Gallery

CREATIONS

Kristín Gunnlaugsdóttir's art works are shaped by the contrast of erotics and religion. Her consummate draughtsmanship and exquisite handling of materials is in stark contrast to the bold, even shocking way in which she presents her works.

Runs until January 19

TREASURES - Beasts in Cages

This exhibition gives a good insight into the variety of Icelandic art in modern and contemporary periods. In addition to the National Gallery's collection, prints by Edvard Munch, whose 150th anniversary will be celebrated on December 12, are on display as well.

Runs until January 19

The National Museum

The Making Of A Nation

This exhibition is intended to provide insight into the history of the Icelandic nation from the Settlement to the present day.

On permanent view

Sigfús Eymundsson Photography

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

Runs until January 10

Nordic House

Bog Of Gold Exhibition

Steinunn Gunnlaugsdóttir, Ósk Vilhjálmisdóttir and Hildur Hákonardóttir put on their second exhibition together.

Runs until January 12

The Old Harbour

Iceland Expo Pavillion

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

On permanent view

Reykjavik Art Museum - Hafnarhús

Tomas Martišauskis: Creature

Lithuanian artist Tomas Martišauskis translates the notion of traditional sculpture by translating a sculptural object into various mediums. The object itself will not appear in the exhibit, only these "authentic" copies.

Runs until January 12

Icelandic Video Art 1975 - 1990

This exhibition explores the first steps taken by Icelandic artists to use video as an artistic medium. The works shown were first exhibited in Iceland between 1980 and 1990 and only a few have been shown since then.

Runs until January 19



Reflection Perfection The Scintilla Mirror Exhibition

Spark Design Space | Nov. 21 - Feb. 28 | Free!

There's still time to catch a glimpse of yourself at the ongoing mirror exhibition in Spark Design Space, presented by the Icelandic design brand Scintilla, which will run until February 28. The exhibition contains mirrors of a wide range of sizes displayed with strong post-modern, Art Deco, and 80s Memphis Group influences. SPARK is a platform for local design projects and is open on weekdays from 10:00 to 18:00 and on weekends from 12:00 to 16:00. Also a great opportunity to see if your friend is really a vampire. **BS**



Find all art listings
online
listings.grapevine.is

Reykjavik Art Museum - Kjarvalsstaðir

Inside Alexanders Rodchenko

Numerous photographs taken by one of the most important Russian artists of the early 20th century will be exhibited. Curator is Olga Sviblova.

Runs until January 12

Jóhannes Kjarval by the banks

In this exhibition, several art works created by Jóhannes Kjarval, one of the most famous Icelandic artists, will be displayed. Since many of the pictures are owned by the banks, this will be the first time ever they are available at one single place.

Runs until January 26

The Reykjavik City Library

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

On permanent view

Reykjavik City Museum

Reykjavik 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.

On permanent view

Reykjavik 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 that showcases the growth of the Reykjavik Harbour.

On permanent view

The Coast Guard Vessel Óðinn

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

On permanent view

Reykjavik Museum Of Photography

Contemporary Landscape

This exhibition consists of 12 works by Icelandic Photographers who are focussing on nature in Iceland. It is not about "post card photography" but the connection between human beings and nature itself.

Runs until January 12

Petites Pausés

This is the first of a series of exhibitions in Kubbin (The Cube) where various photographers can share their images through a projector. The first exhibition is "Petit Pause" by the French photographer, composer and musician Vincent Malassis. Vincent works with realism in photography and the traditional interpretation seen in occidental painting.

Runs until May 9

Volcano House

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

On permanent view

Spark Design Space

Reflection

Linda Árnadóttir, the founder and creative director of Scintilla, will open a show of MIRRORS. Up until the present Scintilla has focused on creating textiles for the home but will now extend its product range and create new products from different materials. Scintilla, which has always emphasized progressive graphics and patterns will, on the 21st of November, unveil a new collection of mirrors.

Runs until February 28

Týs Gallerí

Barabarrtré

Sara Riel's new exhibit ("Only Conifer") examines the conifer's role in Iceland outside of the holiday season and different ways to look at Icelandic foresting.

Runs until January 18

Wind and Weather Gallery

Spun Mustard Silkrock

This exhibition is an assemblage of different media. The composition is in itself a conversation between texture and colours, the cyber and the organic.

Runs until March 4

Experience Icelandic Art and Design

ROUTE
40



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

350 years of Árni Magnússon
The artist's model book



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



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

**Next exhibition opens on
February 7th**
Exhibition shop is open

Paintings, drawings and design
by Rúna – Sigrún Guðjónsdóttir

To the Blue Lagoon



ICELAND SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

New Icelandic Music

THU 30 JAN » 19:30

The opening concert of Dark Music Days in Harpa Music Hall features the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, performing an array of new Icelandic music. Also Three Movements by Steve Reich, featured in the new Hunger Games movie.

Haukur Tómasson

In seventh heaven

Daniel Bjarnason

The Isle is full of noises

Puríður Jónsdóttir

New work

Steve Reich

Three Movements

Daniel Bjarnason

Conductor

The Hamrahlíð Choirs

Box office » +354 528 5050 » www.sinfonia.is » www.harpa.is

KRUA THAI

RESTAURANT AND TAKEAWAY

**AUTHENTIC
THAI FOOD
SINCE 2001**



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

**HOME DELIVERY AVAILABLE!
Tel: +354 552 2525**

LIKE THAI FOOD?
YOU'LL LOVE KRUA THAI

STRANDGATA 13
(AKUREYRI)

TRYGGVAGATA 14
(DOWNTOWN REYKJAVIK)

PHONE: 561 0039

BAEJARLIND 14-16
(KOPAVOGUR)

DELIVERY: 552 2525

fish

Skólavörðustíg 23
Phone: 5711289



steamed fish
fish stew
fish soup

fish

Ingólfsstræti 8
Phone: 5713711

F O O D

FOR YOUR MIND, BODY AND SOUL



L'Italia Il Modo Americano

UNO

Hafnarstræti 1-3, 101 Reykjavík

What We Think:

Italian cuisine with a touch of Americana.

Flavour:

Italian, American, Southern-European.

Ambiance:

Family style, laid back.

Service:

Enthusiastic, friendly.

Price for 2 (with drinks):

14-15,000 ISK



When Uno first opened its doors in 2011 it was a revelation. Finally, there was an Italian restaurant in Reykjavík that served fresh pasta dishes without leaving the customer bankrupt in the process. But that was all in the beginning, and the establishment has changed hands quite a few times since then, as I understand it.

I was prepared to find an entirely new restaurant when I visited this time but, surprisingly, the menu hadn't changed that much, if at all. Uno's style can't be considered classic Italian Cuisine save for a few dishes. It feels more like an Americanised version of classic Italian with a "family style" environment—in the same vein as The Olive Garden or Jamie Oliver-inspired restaurants. This is not necessarily negative and has

long since been acknowledged as a genre in itself. An example would be fried mozzarella sticks (on the starter menu) with sweet chilli sauce. I somehow doubt that you will find sweet chilli sauce in the middle of Tuscany... even if it's the size of North Dakota.

Uno also offers a tasting menu of five courses for 6,990 ISK, or 8 courses for 8,990, but my companion and I decided to choose from the menu, which consists of a dozen starters of various kinds, about the same number of risotto and pasta dishes along with some hardy meat and fish courses.

My companion chose the beef Carpaccio, while I decided upon the baked goat cheese. The Carpaccio was nicely seasoned and had generous amounts of Parmesan shavings. It was a bit grey in some areas, perhaps having been frozen for a bit too long. The walnuts could have been broken up a bit better. The goat's cheese was excellent, oozing from the first touch. It was wrapped in Parma ham with roasted peanuts and fig jam. The jam was spot on and the Parma ham was crisp, providing a wonderful contrast to the melting cheese.

At this point it must be noted that the starters were of hefty proportions. Therefore, we were looking towards something light for a main course. My companion had the mushroom and duck risotto and I decided to see if the pasta was as fresh as Uno would have us believe by choosing beef and chilli rigatoni. The risotto was nicely

cooked. You could still spot every grain, which means it was al dente, as it should be. It was served with a whole confit leg of duck, which was a bit odd. My companion had to start by stripping the meat off the bone, and yes there was plenty of meat to be stripped. The dish proved delicious, but the portion was simply huge—so huge that we almost felt guilty.

The rigatoni presented the same problem. The rigatoni itself was perfectly cooked and well seasoned. The meat came from slowly braised beef shanks, which had been stripped off the bone for me—a strange piece of inconsistency. It was served with pickled chillies, which were almost sweet to the tooth yet contained a touch of their original heat. That said, I came nowhere near finishing my dish.

The idea of dessert was out of the question. In fact, we could barely finish our drinks. Some might not find this problematic at all, and it isn't. As stated above, this is a family style place that offers hearty meals for a fair price. And it seemed to be working as far as I could tell. The atmosphere is welcoming and friendly. Our servers, while quite young, were enthusiastic, presented everything eloquently and kept our glasses full the whole time. I think the next time I visit Uno, it will be for lunch, for something like a single main course. That will undoubtedly keep me well nourished for the remainder of the day.

✍ BJÖRN TEITSSON
📷 NANNA DÍ

many famous people are regulars here
www.banthai.is

Ban Thai

the finest Thai restaurant in Iceland



the best thai food
2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013



1/10 Best Restaurants In Iceland
Best Goddamn Restaurant 2011
Laugavegur 130, ofan við Hlemm
banthai@banthai.is

Tel : 692-0564

Also Recommend.....

yummy Tel: 588-2121

Hverfisgata 123, 105 Rvk.

www.yummy.is



You Can't Hurry Love

Einar Ben

Veltusund 1, 101 Reykjavík

What We Think:

Icelandic cuisine, at a high price.

Flavour:

Scandinavian, with French and Italian touches.

Ambiance:

Casual fine dining.

Service:

Matched the food, mediocre.

Price for 2 (with drinks):

20–24,000 ISK



Einar Ben is one of those restaurants in Reykjavík that seems to be a permanent fixture in the city. They've been there for as long as I can remember, serving up Icelandic cuisine—as far as that concept goes—for generations. This would, and should, bring about certain expectations for a fantastic evening in the age-old establishment.

Einar Ben is located near Ingólfs-torg, in a wooden building from the early 20th century. The decor is very 1950s, resembling a stately Icelandic home from the era, of which there weren't too many at the time.

The menu listed on the restaurant's website is not the same as the physical menu you're offered there. That one is comprised of four starters, four main courses and two desserts. The dishes are typical Icelandic restaurant items, meant to showcase the best of the local product: butter,

skyr, seafood and lamb. It should be noted that the menu had at least five spelling errors. This is not to be taken lightly; proofreading is the least you can do when producing a text that is essentially the face of your business.

My companion chose a beef Carpaccio with roasted almonds as a starter, while I had the fish soup "filled with seafood and skyr cream." The Carpaccio was quite dull—underseasoned and missing Parmesan shavings, which could have done a lot. The almonds were not roasted either. It came with a homemade pesto, which was fairly nice. The fish soup was very thick and heavy, more like a Louisiana gumbo than a soup. It was filled with seafood for sure, mostly pieces of cod and salmon, which are likely trimmings from the fillets used for the main courses. Nothing wrong with that, but the pieces of fish were not evenly cooked. Some were crisp, while others were chewy. The skyr cream brought about tartness, a lactose acidity, which was not pleasing to be honest.

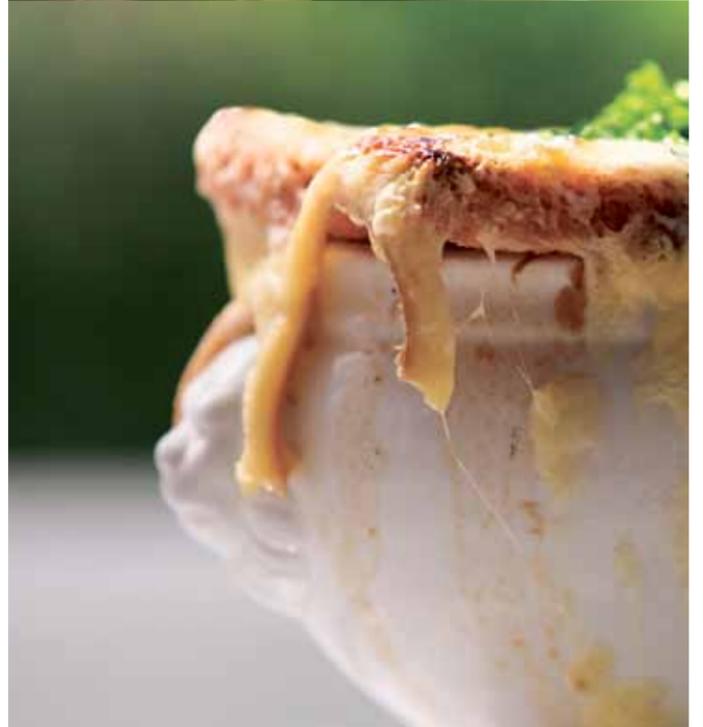
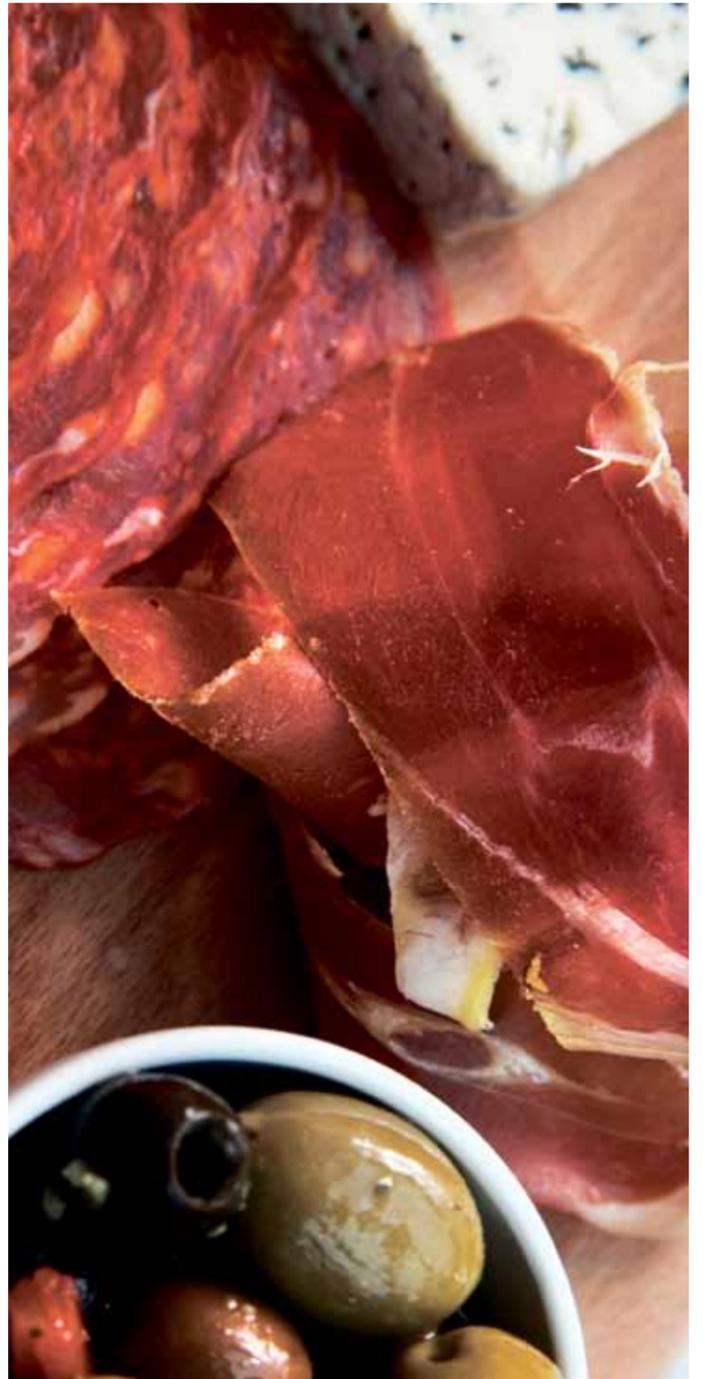
For a main course, my companion chose the "lamb fillet, lamb shanks with potato terrine, root vegetables and red vine sauce," spelling error included. I settled for fried cod, with butter noisette potatoes and a sweet potato purée. The lamb was nicely cooked, especially the shank, which was smothered in sauce. The sauce itself was a bit too heavy, but tasted nice. The root vegetables were spot on. The cod was cooked perfectly, crisp on the outside yet soft and flaky on the inside. As it should be. The potatoes needed seasoning and

my dish came with a rucola and feta cheese salad, which did not really serve any purpose. The sweet potato purée was a fine choice for accompaniment.

For dessert we decided to share a crème brûlée with cream and fruit. The crème brûlée was very nice, its surface breaking like thin ice while the pudding itself remained soft and airy. However, it seems very odd to add cream on the side. Cream with cream. Sounds like a rap song.

Overall, our journey was somewhat lacklustre and it seems quite obvious that Einar Ben has seen better days. The fact that there are different menus could mean that they are in the process of developing a new one, rather than simply lagging in ambition. There were nonetheless faults in the service. At no point were our dishes explained to us and the tempo of our meal was much too fast, even after I made a point of saying that we were in no hurry whatsoever upon arrival. It's like Diana Ross's mom said, "you can't hurry love."

✍ BJÖRN TEITSSON
📷 NANNA DÍ



SNAPS

Reykjavik | B I S T R O - B A R | Est. 2012

FRENCH ONION SOUP
Icelandic Ísbúi cheese, croûtons
1.790.kr

MOULES MARINIÈRES
steamed mussels from Breiðafjörður
1.800.kr

CATCH OF THE DAY
today's fresh seafood in a rich fish broth
3.200.kr

101 ÓÐINSTORG REYKJAVÍK ÍSLAND SNAPSBISTRO.IS
snapsbistro@snapsbistro.is +354 5116677



**COFFEE ROASTED
ON THE PREMISE**
**AFFORDABLE FOOD, SNACKS
AND DELICIOUS CAKES.**

LUNCH OFFER EVERY DAY: 1500 ISK



Opening hours:
Monday-Thu 8-20
Fridays 8-22
Saturdays 9-23
Sundays 9-20
www.cafehaiti.is

by the Old Harbour
Geirsgata 7b · 101 Reykjavík



Your local car rental around Iceland

www.holdur.is

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

16 Europcar locations in Iceland



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



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

Transfer complete



Now on Laugavegur 17



580 7500



Laugavegur 17



verslun@macland.is





Winter Wonderland.is



South Iceland



www.south.is

Get the Official Tourist Guide
in any Information center



Orkusýn
 Hellsheiði • +354 412 5800, +354 660 9400,
 orkusyn@orkusyn.is • www.orkusyn.is



A Geothermal Energy Exhibition
 Stop by the Hellsheiði Geothermal Power Plant and visit the Geothermal Energy Exhibition in the visitors centre. The plant is a striking example of how geothermal energy is harnessed in a sustainable manner in Iceland. Experienced guides give informative presentations backed by multimedia shows about sustainable green energy as a global energy source. Visit an exclusive collection of minerals and stones. Enjoy our coffee shop and browse through our gift shop of local arts and crafts. Open daily from 09:00 – 17:00.

Lindin
 Lindarbraut 2, 840 Laugarvatn • +354 486 1262
 • lindin@laugarvatn.is • www.laugarvatn.is



Lindin Restaurant & Café Bistro, stands on a firm foundation of culinary excellence that has attracted patrons from around the world. Lindin is located in the village of Laugarvatn, right beside the lovely natural steam baths and pool at Fontana Spa. The 45 minute scenic drive from Reykjavik takes you through enchanting landscapes between Geysir/Gullfoss and Thingvellir, making this an excellent choice for a day's journey.

Laugarvatn Fontana
 Hverabraut 1, Laugarvatn • +354 486 1400
 fontana@fontana.is • www.fontana.is



Laugarvatn Fontana is a place where you come to relax and experience authentic Icelandic nature while relaxing in the warm geothermal pools and natural steam rooms. Hot, healing steam simmers directly from the ground at Fontana through grids in the cabin floors of this newly decorated wellness center where nature meets tradition. The baths vary in depth, size and temperature and the steam rooms that have been built over natural hot springs that has been used in this purpose since 1929. Fontana is situated by the beautiful lake Laugarvatn and you can enjoy the spectacular views from the sauna or the pools.



Kvöldstjarnan
 Stjörmosteinar 7 • 825 Stokkseyri
 +354 4831800 • www.kvoldstjarnan.is •
 kvoldstjarnan@simnet.is



„The Guesthouse Kvöldstjarnan which is situated in Stokkseyri, has 6 rooms and total of 11 beds. 5 beds in a separate apartment on second floor and 6 beds on the ground floor. Both floors have fully equipped kitchen. So why not stay awhile at the Star on the shore?“

Kaffi Krús
 Austurvegi 7 - 800 Selfoss • +354 4821266
 kaffikrus@kaffikrus.is • www.kaffikrus.is



Veitinga- og kaffihúsið Kaffi krús er 20 ára í ár. Kaffi krús er eitt elsta húsið á Selfossi, byggt árið 1931 og er staðsett í hjarta miðbæjarins á Selfossi. Matseðillinn telur 60 rétti og á hverjum degi eru 8-12 heimabakaðar kökur í boði. Sólþallur við húsið tekur um 70 manns og er fljótur að fyllast á góðvörðisdögum. Café/Restaurant Kaffi Krús has been around for 20 years. It's located in one of the oldest houses in Selfoss, built in 1931. The menu has 60 different courses and every day we offer a variety of 8-12 homebaked cakes. Seating available on the terrace, ideal for a relaxing refreshment on sunny days.

Hótel Geysir
 +354 480 6800
 geysir@geysircenter.is • www.geysircenter.is



Welcome to my home, Geysir.
 Country hotel by the great Geysir and the hot spring area. Conference/meetings in a peaceful surroundings. Activity in an extraordinary scenery in a stunning nature. Swimming in natural hot spring pool with pure Geysir water or relax in our hot tubs. Gourmet restaurant and Geysir by your window, la carte, buffet or BBQ in the forest on an open fire. Our motto is using local ingredients of highest quality and freshness. Be an Icelander and stay with us and live the life that we do every day. Hiking in our little forest Haukadalur, educate your family in our Geysistofa multimedia museum and enjoy our beautiful design store next door.

SHARE YOUR adventure with us
 www.WinterWonderland.is



TAKE A photo!
 hashtag it
#WWSOUTH
 Visit South Iceland

Arctic adventures

Laugavegur 11, Reykjavík • +354 562 7000
info@adventures.is • www.adventures.is



Iceland's premier eco-friendly adventure tour operator

From spewing volcanoes and vast glaciers to rugged coastlines and raging rivers, Arctic Adventures is Iceland's premier eco-friendly adventure tour operator. With seven base camps scattered around Iceland's great outdoor playground, we are the local specialists just about everywhere adventure is to be found! With a full menu of glacier hiking, river rafting, trekking, sea kayaking, caving, snowmobiling, super-jeep safaris, snorkeling, surfing, quad biking, and much more, the possibilities are truly endless! Arctic Adventures offers everything from day tours to multi-sport expeditions, rain or shine, all year round. Join us and explore a wilderness like none other!

Hótel Geirland

Geirland, 880 Kirkjubæjarklaustur • +354 487 4677 • geirland@centrum.is • www.geirland.is



A unique experience in the countryside of Iceland, located only 2 km from Kirkjubæjar-klaustur. We offer total of 40 cozy rooms all with ensuite bathroom. Hótel Geirland is the perfect choice for nature lovers who like to walk, hike or simply enjoy the beautiful surroundings and northern lights. Our restaurant provides authentic Icelandic food straight from the farm. Mission of the hotel is to strive hard to provide high standard personal service to make the stay memorable and enjoyable for the guests.

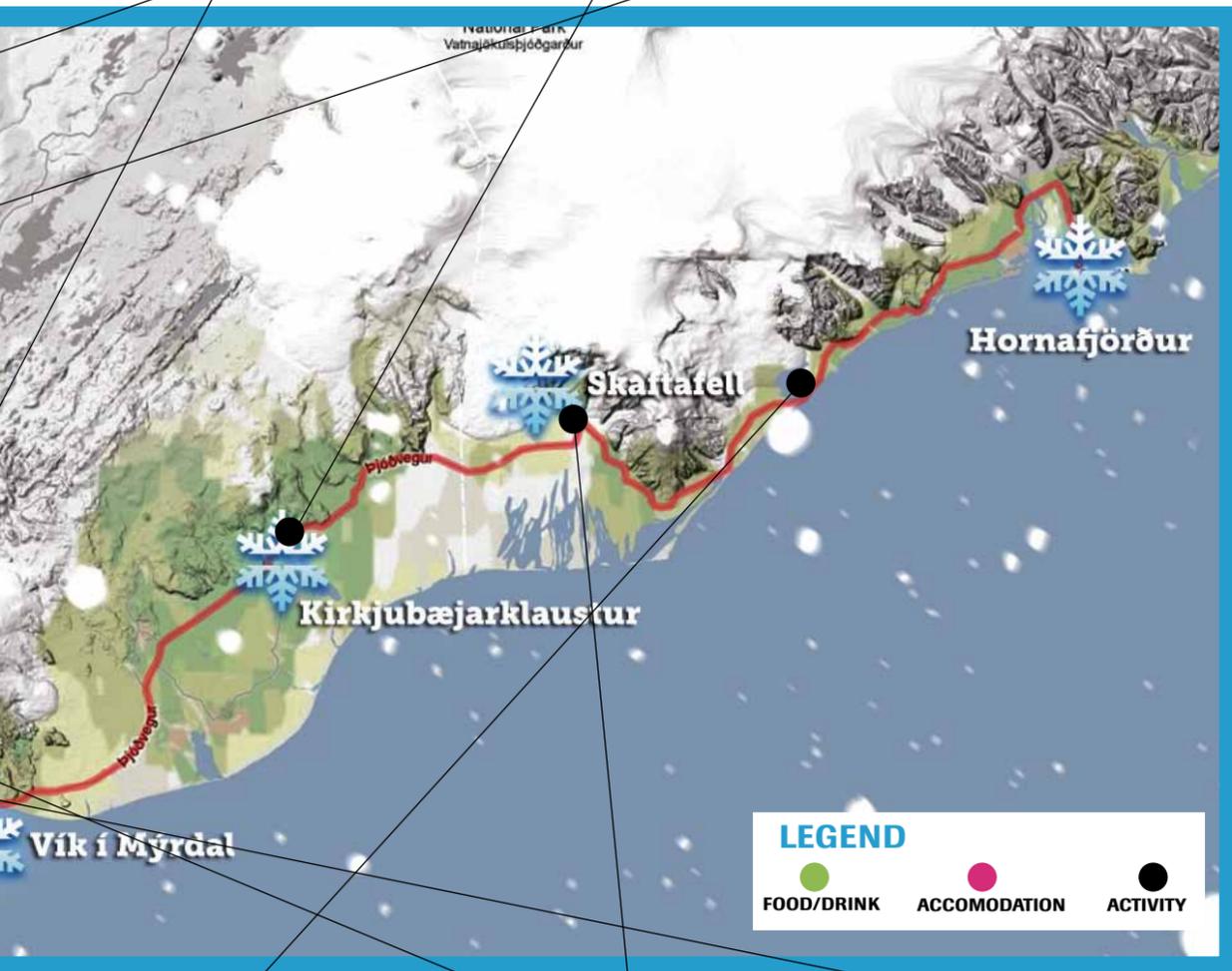
LÁ Art Museum

Asturveggi 21, Hveragerði • +354 483 1727
listasafn@listasafnarnesinga.is • www.listasafnarnesinga.is



Give visit a chance - it might surprise you

Only 40 minutes drive from Reykjavik on the Golden Circle in the geothermal town Hveragerði. Enjoy ambitious exhibitions of modern and contemporary art in our four spacious galleries. A peaceful setting with wealth of art related material supplied, and a small Café.



Jökulsárlón

Jökulsárlón, Reynivöllum 3 / 781 / Hornafjörður • tel. (+354) 4782222 • www.jokulsarlon.is



Jökulsárlón-Glacier lagoon, is one of Iceland's most visited places and that's no wonder. The lagoons unique scenery has long inspired travellers from all over the world.

Visit this magical place and enjoy our freshly made sandwiches and pastry at our wonderful café. Why not have a meal while you witness one of nature's great spectacles as Europe's largest glacier crumbles away to sea one enormous piece at a time. If you are lucky you might even see some seals.

We have great offers for groups of various sizes so make table reservations in advance.

Mountain Guides

+354 587 9999 • mountainguides@mountainguides.is • www.mountainguides.is



Icelandic Mountain Guides' Glacier Walks are a safe but fun activity and a great way to experience the wonders of the Icelandic Nature. Glacier Walks are easy and accessible for both individuals and groups and have become one of the most popular tourism activities in Iceland. Icelandic Mountain Guides' Glacier Walks are operated every day, all year on Sólheimajökull glacier and in Skartafell national park from the 1st of February 2013. Make Sure it's Mountain Guides.

Katla Geopark

Víkurbraut 28 +354 487 1395
info@vik.is www.visitvik.is



Katlacenter, information and security center Vík í Mýrdal. Katlacenter is located in the town of Vík. Katlacenter hosts the local information and security center. In Katlacenter you can also find an amazing exhibition about the volcano Katla and see how it has effected the people who live in the area. In winter it's open Monday - Thursday 09 - 16 and Fridays 09 - 13. Weekends closed. From the 1. of mai - 1. oktober it's open from early to late.

Adventure tours Scheduled flights Air Charter services

Reykjavik

Höfn

Day tours to Vatnajökull Region

Discover the natural wonders of Vatnajökull glacier and glacier lagoon

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





Visit South Iceland
www.south.is



Members of South-Iceland Marketing Office:

Sveitarfélagið Árborg	www.arborg.is	Hekla Cabins - Rjúpnaveilir	www.rjupnavellir.is
Byggðasafn Árnesinga - Húsið	www.husid.com	Icelandic Horse World - visitor center	www.iceworld.is
Guðmundur Tyrfinngsson - GT Travel	www.gtyrfinngsson.is	Hótel Lækur	www.hotellaekur.is
Hótel Selfoss	www.hotelselfoss.is	Landborgir	www.landborgir.is
Bed and Breakfast	www.bandb.is	Árhús	www.arhus.is
Gesthús	www.gesthus.is	Guesthouse Nonni	www.bbiceland.com
Sea Side Cottages	www.seasidecottages.is	Rangárþing eystra	www.hvolsvollur.is
Guesthouse Kvöldstjarnan	www.kvoldstjarnan.is	Sögusetrið	www.njala.is
Fosstún	www.fosstun.is	Skógarsafn	www.skogasafn.is
Kaffi Krús	www.kaffikrus.is	Hellishólar	www.hellisholar.is
Fjöruborðið	www.fjorubordid.is	South Iceland Adventure	www.siadv.is
Rauða húsið	www.raudahusid.is	Southcoast Adventure	www.southadventure.is
Menam	www.menam.is	Country Hotel Anna	www.hotelanna.is
Handverksskúrin		Hótel Hvolsvöllur	www.hotelhvolsvollur.is
Geiri á Bakkanum	www.menningarstadir.123.is	Gestastofan Þorvaldseyri	www.icelandicadventure.is
Gistiheimilið Bitra	www.guesthousebitra.is	Hótel Fjótshlíð / Smáratún	www.smaratun.is
Tryggvaskáli	www.tryggvaskali.is	Eldstö	www.eldsto.is
The Bobby Fisher Center	www.fishercenter.is	Kaffi Langbrók	www.rang.is/langbrok
Hveragerðisbær	www.hveragerdi.is	Eldfjallaskálarir Húsadal / Volcano Huts	www.volcanohuts.com
Hveragerðurinn	www.hveragerdi.is	Söluskálinn Björkin	
Listasafn Árnesinga	www.listasafnarnesinga.is	Skálakot	www.skalakot.com
Hótel Ör	www.hotelork.is	Welcome Hotel Lambafell	www.lambafell.is
Frumskógar	www.frumskogar.is	Hótel Skógar	www.hotelskogar.is
Iceland Activities	www.icelandactivities.is	Hótel Skógafoss	www.hotelskogafoss.is
Hofland setrið	www.hoflandsetrid.is	Mýrdalshreppur	www.vik.is
Kjöt & Kunst	www.kjotogkunst.net	Kötlusetur	www.kotlusetur.is
Dalakaffi	www.dalakaffi.is	Halldórkaffi	www.halldorskaffi.is
Hótel Frost og funi	www.frostogfuni.is	Þakgil - camping site with cabins	www.thakgil.is
Sveitarfélagið Ölfus	www.olfus.is	Arcanum-ferðaþjónusta	www.arcanum.is
Eldhestar	www.eldhestar.is	Íslenskir Fjallaleiðsögumenn	www.mountainguides.is
Hellisheiðarvirkjun	www.orkusyn.is	Víkurþrjón / Icewear	www.icewear.is
Sólhestar	www.solhestar.is	Hótel Lundi	www.hotellundi.is
Hendur í Höfn	www.hendurihofn.is	Hótel Katla - Höfðabrekka	www.hotelkatla.is
Gistiheimilið Hjarðaból	www.hjardarbol.is	Café Sólheimajökull	
Núpar	www.nupar.is	Hótel Vík í Mýrdal	www.hoteledda.is/hotels/hotel-edda-vik
Flóahreppur	www.floahreppur.is	Ströndin restaurant	www.strondin.is
Gistiheimilið Lambastöðum	www.lambastadir.is	Skaftárhreppur	www.klaustur.is
Iceland South Coast Travel	www.isct.is	Kirkjubæjarstofa	www.kbkl.is
Pingborg	www.thingborg.net	Ferðaþjónustan Hunkubökkum	www.hunkubakkur.is
Countryhotel Vatnsholt	www.hotelvatnsholt.is	Hótel Laki	www.hotellaki.is
Gaulverjaskóli Hostel	www.south-hostel.is	Hótel Geirland	www.geirland.is
Grímsnes- og Grafningshreppur	www.gogg.is	Hótel Klaustur	www.icelandairhotels.is/hotels/klaustur
Eco village	www.solheimar.is	Hólasport	www.holasport.is
Sesseljuhús	www.sesseljuhus.is	Hólaskjól	www.eldgja.is
Gallery Vala	www.solheimar.is	Íslandia hotel Núpar	www.islandiahotel.is
Hótel Grímsborgir	www.grimsborgir.is	Sveitarfélagið Hornafjörður	www.hornafjordur.is
Útlífsmiðstöðin Úlfjótsvatn	www.ulfjotsvatn.is	Skaftafellsstofa	www.vjp.is
Sólheimar Gesthús	www.solheimar.is	Þórbergissetur	www.thorbergssetur.is
Ion Luxury Adventure Hotel	www.ionhotel.is	Hofsnes	www.hofsnes.com
Bláskógabyggð	www.blaskogabyggd.is	Jökulsárlón	www.jokulsarlon.is
Ferðaþjónustan Úthlíð	www.uthlid.is	Hólmur Ferðaþjónusta	www.eldhorn.is/mg/gisting
Kerlingarfjöll	www.kerlingarfjoll.is	Hoffell / GlacierWorld	www.hoffell.com
Friðheimar	www.fridheimar.is	Gerði Gistiheimili	www.farmholidays.is/FarmDetails.aspx?No=595
Skálholt	www.skalholt.is	Hali Guesthouse	www.hali.is
Iceland Riverjet	www.icelandriverjet.com	Country Hotel Smyrlabjörg	www.smyrlabjorg.is
Farmhotel Efstidalur 2	www.efstidalur.is	Tjaldsvæðið Höfn	www.campsite.is
Hótel Geysir	www.geysircenter.is	Brunnhóll Ferðaþjónusta	www.brunnholl.is
Guesthouse Skálinn	www.gjasteinn.is	Fosshótel Vatnajökull	www.fosshotel.is/is/fosshotel/fosshotel-vatnajokull
Gullfosskaffi	www.gullfoss.is	Hótel Höfn	www.hotelhofn.is
Hótel Gullfoss	www.hotelgullfoss.is	Glacier guides	www.glacierguides.is
Arctic rafting	www.arcticrafting.is	Local Guide / Öreafaferðir	www.localguide.is
Bjarkarhóll ehf	www.garn.is	Humarhöfnin	www.humarhofnin.is
Iceland Safari	www.icelandsafari.com	Vatnajökull travel	www.vatnajokull.is
Geysir Green Guesthouse	www.geysirgreenguesthouse.is	Ís & ævintýri / Jöklaþingur	www.glacierjeeps.is
Kjóstaðir 2	www.goldencirclecliding.is	Ríki Vatnajökuls	www.visitvatnajokull.is
Laugarvatn Adventure	www.caving.is	Hof 1 Hótel	www.hof1.is
Laugarvatn Fontana	www.fontana.is	Atlantsflug	www.atf.is
Gallerí Laugavatn	www.gallerilaugarvatn.is	Sagnheimar	www.sagnheimar.is
Lindin restaurant	www.laugarvatn.is	Sæheimar	www.saeheimar.is
Golden Circle Apartments	www.goldencircleapartments.is	Hótel Vestmannaeyjar	www.hotelvestmannaeyjar.is
Héraðsskólinn Hostel & Travel Centre	www.heradsskolinn.is	Hótel Eyjar	www.hoteleyjar.eyjar.is
Skeiða- og Gnúpverjahreppur	www.skeidgnup.is	Rib Safari	www.ribsafari.is
Steinsholt	www.steinsholt.is	Viking Tours	www.vikingtours.is
Vorsabær 2	www.vorsabae2.is	STUDIO 7	www.woolshop.is
Hótel Hekla Golfv.	www.hotelhekla.is	Kynnisferðir / Reykjavík Excursions	www.re.is
Hótel Hekla	www.hotelhekla.is	Snaeland Grímsson	www.snaeland.is
Hrunamannahreppur	www.fludir.is	Allra handa / Iceland Excursions	www.grayline.is
Syðra Langholt	www.sydralangholt.is	Trex hóperðamiðstöð	www.trex.is
Hótel Flúðir	www.hotelfludir.is	Ferðaskrifstofan Esja	www.esjatravel.is
Ásahreppur	www.asahreppur.is	HL Adventure	www.hl.is
Kálfholt	www.kalfholt.is	Fjallamenn / Mountaineers of Iceland	www.mountaineers.is
Rangárþing ytra	www.ry.is	Katla Geopark	www.katlageopark.is
Hekluhestar	www.hekluhestar.is	Ferðafélag Íslands	www.fi.is
Heklusetur	www.leirubakki.is	Norðurlug	www.heli.is
Herríðarhóll	www.herridarholl.is	Ernir	www.ernir.is
Hestheimar	www.hestheimar.is	Víkingaslóðir ehf.	www.vikingaslodir.is
Hótel Leirubakki	www.leirubakki.is	Pink Iceland	www.pinkiceland.is
Hótel Rangá	www.hotelranga.is	Harpa Yachts (Snekkjan ehf)	www.harpayachts.is
Sagnagarður	www.sagnagardur.land.is		
Hótel Highland	www.hotelhighland.is		
Hrauneyjar Guesthouse	www.hrauneyjar.is		