


Think of a City Break

Reykjavik
PURE ENERGY




Kjarvalsstaðir by Róskagata
Open daily 10-17


Great variety of exhibitions
by national and international artists

Reykjavík Art Museum

The admission ticket is valid in all three museums on the same day




Laundarsafn by Sigtún
Open daily
May - September 10 - 16
October - April 13 - 16



Laundarsafn by Sigtún
Open daily 10 - 17

www.artmuseum.is



LAUNDRASAFN BY SIGTÚN
REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM



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Think Reykjavík
– Pure Energy

Visitors to Reykjavík experience easily the pure energy at the heart of Iceland's capital city – whether from the boiling thermal energy underground, the natural green energy within the city and around it, or the lively culture and fun-filled nightlife.

Think of the qualities of a great city – fun, space, clean air, nature, culture – and Reykjavík has them in spades. It has the features of a modern, forward-looking society which are complemented by a close connection to beautiful nature right at the city's doorstep.

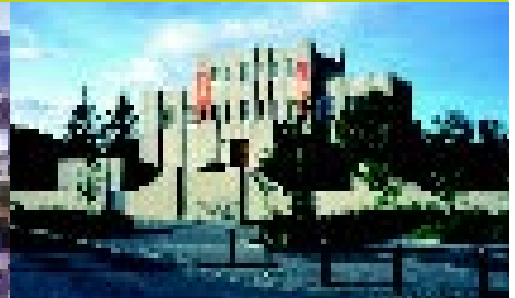
Reykjavík is a great place to visit, whether for some cultural nourishment, a spot of unbridled fun or to recharge your batteries. Think of the ideal city break and you'll think of Reykjavík.





Top Ten Things to do in Reykjavík

- Stroll around the city centre, admire the colourful old houses and enjoy the relaxing atmosphere by Tjornin Lake
- Soak your stress away in one of the city's relaxing thermal pools
- Climb up Hallgrímskirkja Church tower for a panoramic view of the city
- Indulge your interest in Iceland's fascinating cultural heritage or cutting edge art at one of the city's many museums and galleries
- Shop for some quirky Icelandic designed art, clothing or jewellery
- Take a day-tour and view the magnificent landscape surrounding the city
- Test your stamina with a night on the town "Reykjavík style"
- Visit The Pearl – an otherworldly creation with a viewing platform and a revolving restaurant on top of hot water storage tanks
- Give your taste buds a real treat by dining at one of Reykjavík's many excellent seafood restaurants
- Be amazed by the sight of whales and dolphins on a whale-watching tour





Energising Reykjavík

The vast, beautiful landscape around Reykjavík lends itself to innumerable outdoor activities. Visitors to Reykjavík will be impressed by the city's proximity to nature and struck by the cleanliness of the city itself. There are plenty of possibilities when planning outdoor activities and excursions during your stay in the capital.

Walks in and around Reykjavík

Reykjavík is a friendly and colourful city, and a walk around the downtown area with its picturesque backdrop of mountains and ocean, is a delightful experience. Stroll up **Skolavordustigur** to **Hallgrímskirkja Church**, and take the lift to the top of the 75-metre-high tower for a panoramic view. At the peaceful **Tjornin Lake**, you can feed the ducks or simply relax by the water.

To get the most out of your stroll in the centre, pick up a City Walks map, which will guide you between sculptures and artwork, parks and hidden gardens and historic sites and landmarks. City Walks

maps are available at the Reykjavík Tourist Information Centre, City Library branches and various museums. The city has many footpaths, including walking and cycling routes along much of the Reykjavík coastline and through parks and other open areas. The wooded areas of **Oskjuhlid hill** and **Ellidaardalur Valley** are the perfect backdrop for a peaceful walk, while a stroll along the stark **Aegissida** or **Seltjarnarnes** shorelines will leave you invigorated.



Offshore **Videy Island** is a lovely spot, just minutes away by ferry. The island, which is a historical site, harbours varied bird-life and interesting sculptural art. The extensive **Heidmork nature reserve**, on the outskirts of Reykjavík, has a splendid volcanic landscape and spectacular views. Just a short drive or bus ride away is the majestic **Mount Esja** (914 metres) with accessible paths, a favourite place for hiking enthusiasts.

Cycling and Roller-blading

The city is pleasant for cycling, with little air pollution and many bike lanes. Cyclists are also permitted to cycle on sidewalks and footpaths. Bikes can be hired from a number of shops in Reykjavík. Roller-blading along the coastline is also a popular activity.



Boat Trips and Whale Watching

As Reykjavík is surrounded by water, there are plenty of opportunities to take in some of the sights from a distance on one of the many boat tours operating from the water front.

For an exciting sea adventure, try one of the many whale and bird-watching tours that are available from Reykjavík. The ocean around Reykjavík is a natural habitat for many different types of whales including minke, humpback and killer whales, and dolphins and seals are often spotted. Trips also pass by Puffin Island, which is full of these photogenic creatures.

Fishing

Did you know that an excellent salmon river, **Ellidaa**, runs through Reykjavík? Fishing opportunities in Ellidaa can be arranged, if booked well in advance. Sea-angling tours operate from Reykjavík Harbour and there are opportunities for fishing in lakes on the outskirts of Reykjavík, such as **Hafravatn** and **Vífilsstadavatn**. Tour operators operate day tours and excursions for fishing and sea-angling.

Golf

How does the thought of teeing off in the middle of the night strike you? If you're planning on taking a trip to Iceland in the summertime, the Midnight Sun means you can golf around the clock. There are many 9 and 18-hole golf courses in Reykjavík and nearby communities.

Horseback Riding

The Icelandic horses are sturdy and very strong, the direct descendants of the horses first brought to Iceland in the Viking Age. They have an extra gait called **tölt** which is unique to the breed, and their friendly nature is perfect for first-timers. Horse riding tours are available in beautiful sites on the outskirts of Reykjavík. The trips can be from one hour to a whole day or even longer.



Day Tours and Excursions

Organised tours afford you the opportunity to enjoy the view and relax, while someone else takes over the driving, planning and guiding.

There is a wide variety of tours available to suit all interests. A sightseeing tour of Reykjavík on arrival will familiarise you with what the city has to offer, while a day tour from Reykjavík may include the magnificent **Gullfoss** waterfall, the spectacular **Geysir** geothermal area, a dip in the mineral-rich waters of the **Blue Lagoon**, a visit to **Thingvellir** National Park (and World Heritage Site), or a close-up view of a glacier.

For those who are looking for true excitement, activity tours include white-water rafting, kayaking, snowmobiling, dog-sledding and super-jeep driving on glaciers.

More information about organised tours is available at the Reykjavík Tourist Information Centre and on www.visitreykjavik.is.

Relaxing Reykjavík

No trip to the Reykjavík Capital Area is complete without a dip in one of the sixteen soothing, rich thermal bathing areas. Reykjavík also has state-of-the-art spa facilities based on its thermal bathing culture, not forgetting the must-visit Blue Lagoon, only 40 minutes away from the city. Soak your stress away while you plan your next adventure.



Thermal Pools

One of the delights of a visit to Reykjavík is bathing in one of the many thermal pools, filled with geothermally heated water. Abundant resources of geothermal springs mean that the pools are always pleasantly warm, whatever the weather. Most pools are open-air. All have outdoor whirlpools, or “hot pots” as they are locally known, and most have waterslides for the young (and young at heart). Reykjavík’s thermal pools are open from early morning until late in the evening; swimming costumes and towels are available for a small fee. There is simply no cheaper or healthier way to experience Reykjavík and to get to know the locals!

Arbaejarlaug Thermal Pool

A large, modern pool with excellent facilities for children, popular with locals from all over the city.

Fylkisvegur 9, 110 Reykjavík

Tel: 411 5200

Laugardalslaug Thermal Pool

The city's largest pool with extensive facilities, situated in Laugardalur Valley.

Sundlaugavegur 30, 105 Reykjavík

Tel: 510 4500

Sundhollin Thermal Pool

The city's oldest and only indoor pool (with outdoor hot-pots), located in the city centre.

Baronstigur, 101 Reykjavík

Tel: 551 4059

Vesturbæjarlaug Thermal Pool

A small and friendly neighbourhood pool with an excellent steam room, located within walking distance of the city centre.

Hofsvallagata, 101 Reykjavík

Tel: 561 5004

An extensive guide to Reykjavík thermal pools can be found on www.visitreykjavik.is and www.spacity.is.

Blue Lagoon

Mineral-rich hot water from far beneath the earth forms the spectacular Blue Lagoon, where a luxurious health spa has been developed in the rugged lava landscape. The lagoon's geothermal seawater is known for its positive effects on the skin. The Blue Lagoon is a 40-minute drive from Reykjavík.

Blue Lagoon Geothermal Spa.

Tel: 420 8800, www.bluelagoon.is

Thermal Beach

A thermal beach has been created at **Nautholsvik**, where natural hot water flows out into the sea and you can frolic in the waves or join the other sun worshippers taking in the rays. A beach of golden sand has been created and a "pool" has been enclosed nearby, where the water temperature is about 20°C. Refreshments and various services are available at the beach.

The geothermal beach is open daily 10.00 to 20.00 from 15 May until 15 September.

Tel: 551 6630.

Spas

A relaxing visit to a state-of-the-art spa will leave you feeling in tune with body and soul. Pamper yourself with a luxurious beauty or massage treatment, such as the all-Icelandic Volcano Treatment, and achieve complete relaxation in an aquatic haven with features such as aroma steam rooms and relaxation pools.

Laugar Spa

A five-star health and spa resort in the Laugardalur Valley. Facilities include seven differently themed saunas and steam rooms and a Thalasso therapy Jacuzzi.

Sundlaugavegur 30, 105 Reykjavík

Tel: 533 1177 – www.laugar.com

Nordica Spa

A luxurious spa located in the Nordica Hotel. Facilities include a relaxation pool, aroma steam rooms, an outdoor sauna and a relaxation area.

Nordica Hotel, Sudurlandsbraut 2, 108 Reykjavík

Tel: 444 5090 – www.nordicaspa.is

Mecca Spa

A health paradise located in the Radisson SAS Saga Hotel. Facilities include a Jacuzzi with minerals from the sea, a sauna and steam bath.

Radisson SAS Saga Hotel, by Hagatorg, 107 Reykjavík.

Tel: 511 6410 – www.meccaspa.is



Inspiring Reykjavík

Lovers of art and culture are in for a real treat in Reykjavík. From the Icelandic Sagas to contemporary art, Reykjavík has a buzzing cultural scene. A constant flow of innovative musical happenings, theatrical performances and cultural events keeps locals and visitors entertained all year round.

Museums and Galleries

A fascinating Viking heritage and the latest in visual arts can be explored in the city's many museums and galleries.

Learn about the history of the Icelandic nation at the National Museum, step back in time at the Reykjavík 871 +/- 2 – Settlement Exhibition, get acquainted with the city's maritime heritage at the Reykjavík Maritime Museum and view Iceland's unique literary heritage at the Culture House.

Visual art flourishes in the city. The flagship art galleries are the National Gallery, which displays the most valuable collection of works by Icelandic artists in the country, and the three-fold Reykjavík Art

Museum – in particular the Harbour House, which focuses on contemporary and experimental art by national and international artists. Adding colour to the scene is a rich array of exhibition venues ranging from specialised museums and smaller art galleries to the city streets themselves.

Music and Performing Arts

Reykjavík is characterised by an unusually vibrant artistic community. In recent years, the city has become well known for its happening music scene. The established Iceland Airwaves music festival draws an international



crowd every year to experience what is new in Icelandic and international rock and pop music. Jazz and classical music is well represented too. The Reykjavík Jazz Festival and regular concerts by the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra are just some of the musical events that can be enjoyed in Reykjavík.

As for the performing arts, Reykjavík hosts several theatre companies, the Icelandic Opera and the highly acclaimed Icelandic Dance Company. Numerous high quality cinemas showing international films in their original language are also dotted around the city.

The new Icelandic National Concert and Conference Centre, currently

Reykjavík Events

Reykjavík is a city with ongoing events throughout the year. The city's lively and growing event calendar includes:

Winter Lights Festival – February

Food and Fun – February

Dark Music Days – February

Travellers Day – April

Reykjavík Rite of Spring – April/May

Reykjavík Arts Festival – May

Festival of the Sea – June

Midsummer Family Meet – June

Independence Day – June

Gay Pride – August

Reykjavík Culture Night – August

Reykjavík Marathon – August

Reykjavík Jazz Festival – September

Reykjavík International Film Festival – September

Iceland Airwaves – October

Young Art Festival – November

In addition, New Year's Eve in Reykjavík is an unforgettable experience, with fireworks exploding in every corner of the city!

under construction and opening in 2009, will be an exciting addition to the city's cultural landscape. This iconic building, whose unique design is inspired by Icelandic nature, will be located by Reykjavík Harbour and offer incredible opportunities for concerts and events for large audiences.

Museums and Galleries

The Culture House – National Centre for Cultural Heritage

Exhibitions displaying aspects of Icelandic history and cultural heritage, including important medieval manuscripts, all housed in a listed building of historical value.

Hverfisgata 15, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 545 1400 – www.thjodmenning.is

The Living Art Museum

A gallery focusing on contemporary and experimental art.

Laugavegur 26, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 551 4350 – www.nylo.is

National Gallery of Iceland

The country's largest collection of works by major Icelandic artists of the 19th and 20th centuries, with international artists also featured.

Frikkirkjuvegur 7, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 515 9600 – www.listasafn.is

National Museum of Iceland

A comprehensive picture of the history of the Icelandic nation from the Settlement to the present day. The museum holds up to three thousand objects, among them most of the greatest treasures of the Icelandic nation.

Sudurgata 41, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 530 2200 – www.natmus.is

Reykjavik Art Museum – Harbour House

Diverse exhibitions of contemporary and experimental art, both Icelandic and international. Permanent exhibition of works by Erro, one of Iceland's most celebrated artists.

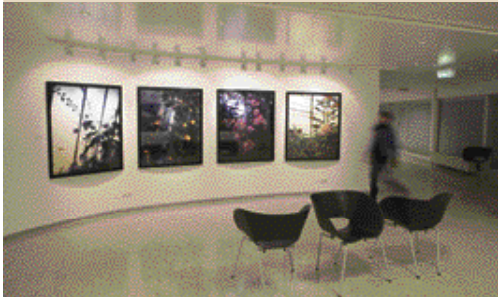
Tryggvagata 17, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 590 1200 – www.listasafnreykjavikur.is

Reykjavik Art Museum – Kjarvalsstadir

Devoted to modern art, both Icelandic and international. Permanent exhibition of works by Johannes S. Kjarval, one of Iceland's most beloved painters.

Flokagata, 105 Reykjavík
Tel: 517 1290 – www.listasafnreykjavikur.is

An extensive guide to all museums and galleries and an updated event calendar can be found on www.visitreykjavik.is



Reykjavík Art Museum – Asmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum

A permanent retrospective exhibition of works by Asmundur Sveinsson, one of the pioneers of sculpture in Iceland. The building was designed and built by the artist himself. Sigtun, 105 Reykjavík
Tel: 553 2155 – www.listasafnreykjavikur.is

Reykjavík City Museum – Arbaejaarsafn

An open-air museum including old buildings and artefacts that depict life in Reykjavík through the centuries. Guides in costume show the life and work of past generations. Kistuhylur 4, 110 Reykjavík
Tel: 411 6300 – www.reykjavikmuseum.is

Reykjavík 871 +/- 2 – Settlement Exhibition

Iceland's oldest settlement ruins presented in a multimedia exhibition portraying life and environment from the Viking age, based on archaeological excavation in Reykjavík city centre. Adalstraeti 16, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 411 6370 – www.reykjavik871.is

Saga Museum

This museum transports guests to the Viking Age and brings back to life renowned



figures and major events in Icelandic history using life-like wax figurines.

The Pearl, Oskjuhlid, 105 Reykjavík
Tel: 511 1517 – www.sagamuseum.is

Videy Island

A short ferry ride from Reykjavík, Videy Island is a historical site where a monastery and the country's first print works were

once located. The island also inhabits intriguing sculptural art work.

Tel: 533 5055 – www.videyisland.is

Vikin – Reykjavík Maritime Museum

Situated in an old fish-factory by Reykjavík Harbour, the museum portrays Reykjavík's maritime heritage.

Grandagardur 8, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 517 9400 – www.sjominjasafn.is

Delicious Reykjavík

Foodies will find plenty to keep them happy when dining in the nation's capital. Reykjavík has an astounding variety of restaurants, offering both traditional and international cuisine cooked using the freshest ingredients.

Icelandic Cuisine

Icelandic cuisine, like many things in Iceland, benefits from the open-mindedness of the Icelandic people and the willingness of the culture to adapt foreign tastes to its own. It is characterised by an imaginative use of pure Icelandic ingredients such as fresh fish and seafood, organic lamb and wild game.

Be sure not to miss the Icelandic hot dog. The highly acclaimed "city's best" can be found at the "**Baejarins Bestu**" hot dog stand on Tryggvagata near Reykjavík Harbour.



Restaurants

Apotek

Housed in a former pharmacy, Apotek serves international fare in contemporary surroundings. Austurstraeti 16, 101 Reykjavik
Tel: 575 7900 – www.veitingar.is

Einar Ben

Named after one of Iceland's finest poets, the restaurant has a 19th century charm and offers a fine menu featuring contemporary creations from the Icelandic international kitchen. By Ingolfstorg, 101 Reykjavik
Tel: 511 5090 – www.einarben.is

Grillid

With an exciting menu, a delightful selection of wines and a spectacular view, Grillid, on the top floor of the Radisson SAS Hotel Saga, has established its place among Reykjavik's finest restaurants. Radisson SAS Hotel Saga, By Hagatorg, 107 Reykjavik
Tel: 525 9960 – www.grillid.is

Kaffi Reykjavik

Brasserie restaurant offering Icelandic and international food. Also home to the Ice Bar, where the interior is kept at a chilly -6°C all year round. Vesturgata 2, 101 Reykjavik
Tel: 552 3030 – www.kaffireykjavik.is

Laekjarbrekka

A classic restaurant in one of the oldest buildings in the city. Specialities include Icelandic seafood, lamb and other traditional dishes. Bankastræti 2, 101 Reykjavik
Tel: 551 4430 – www.laekjarbrekka.is

Lobster House (Humarhusid)

The Lobster House offers top-class cuisine, specialising in lobster and various meat and fish dishes. Amtmannsstigur 1, 101 Reykjavik
Tel: 561 3303 – www.humarhusid.is

Seafood Cellar

The award-winning Seafood Cellar, located in the oldest cellar in Reykjavik, specialises in innovatively presented fusion-style seafood. Adalstraeti 2, 101 Reykjavik
Tel: 511 1212 – www.sjavarkjallarinn.is

The Pearl

A landmark building on top of the city's hot water tanks, this rotating restaurant offers fine dining with panoramic views of the city. Oskjuhlid, 105 Reykjavik
Tel: 562 0200 – www.perlan.is



Thrir Frakkar

A small seafood restaurant with a cosy atmosphere. Well-known for its excellent seafood, specialities include puffin and other sea-bird entrees. Baldursgata 14, 101 Reykjavik
Tel: 552 3939 – www.3frakkar.com

A Day to Remember

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a white swim cap and a white bikini, is lying on her stomach on a wooden platform in a hot spring. She has her head resting on her hands and is looking down. The water is a milky blue color, and there is a misty atmosphere. In the background, there are green hills under a blue sky with white clouds.

BLUE LAGOON

BLUE LAGOON – Geothermal Spa is open daily year round.
www.bluelagoon.com



Tveir Fiskar

Located by Reykjavík Harbour, Tveir Fiskar offers top-of-the-range seafood with a view over the marina.

Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavík

Tel: 511 3474 – www.restaurant.is

Salt

Upscale yet casual, Salt Restaurant at the Radisson SAS 1919 Hotel serves light and modern world cuisine with prime Icelandic ingredients and exotic condiments.

Radisson SAS 1919 Hotel,

Posthusstraeti 2, 101 Reykjavík

Tel: 599 1020 – www.1919.reykjavik.

radissonsas.com

Siggi Hall

Iceland's favourite chef, Siggi Hall, serves up unique and innovative dishes in stylish settings with an informal atmosphere.

Hotel Odinsve, Thorsgata 1,

101 Reykjavík

Tel: 511 6677 – www.siggihall.is

Vid Tjornina

Located near Tjornin Lake, Vid Tjornina offers innovative fish dishes made from a variety of rare fish and shellfish.

Templarasund 3, 101 Reykjavík

Tel: 551 8666 – www.vidtjornina.is

Vin og Skel

A French bistro-style restaurant which specialises in seafood and fish dishes.

Laugavegur 55b, 101 Reykjavík

Tel: 534 4700 – www.vinogskel.is

Vox

The award-winning Vox Restaurant, located at the Nordica Hotel, has a reputation as one of the highest-quality restaurants in Reykjavík. The modern menu changes with the seasons.

Nordica Hotel, Sudurlandsbraut 2,

108 Reykjavík

Tel: 444 5050 – www.voxrestaurant.is

Reykjavík city centre offers its visitors a variety of cuisines from all over the world, from Italian to Thai and everything in between, including a number of vegetarian restaurants. An extensive guide to Reykjavík restaurants can be found on www.visitreykjavik.is. Visit the Reykjavík Tourist Information Centre for even more detailed information.



Vibrant Reykjavík

Walking through Reykjavík city centre during the day, and after hours when the party is well under way, are two completely different experiences. Reykjavík is well known for its vibrant nightlife, with trendy bars and clubs open until the early hours of the morning. Whether you are interested in listening to live music or dancing the night away, you are sure to find something to your liking.

Bars and Clubs

The distinction between cafés, pubs, bars and clubs is far from clear in Reykjavík, with many daytime cafés turning into tightly packed bars and clubs as the night goes on. Many are open until late (five in the morning) and it is not uncommon to spend all night on the town on Friday and Saturday nights. Most bars and clubs are in the compact downtown area which makes it easy to test many different places.

Live Music

Reykjavík has a very eclectic music scene and it goes far beyond what you might have heard about Bjork and Sigur Ros. The scene is made up of a large number of genres, with everything from hardcore punk rock and indie to chamber music and hip-hop. You can take in a concert almost every night of the week.

Bars and Nightclubs

Gaukur a Stong

Iceland's oldest pub featuring live rock concerts by a mix of mainstream and underground bands.

Tryggvagata 22, 101 Reykjavík

Tel: 551 1556 – www.gaukurinn.is

Kaffibarinn

Kaffibarinn, a hip bar with a bohemian atmosphere, featured in the film 101 Reykjavík and part-owned by Damon Albarn of Blur/Gorillaz fame.

Bergstadastraeti 1, 101 Reykjavík

Tel: 551 1588

Kaffi Reykjavík-Ice Bar

A permanent ice bar where the interior is kept at -6°C all year round. All of the interior fittings are made of pure, clear ice from Icelandic glaciers.

Vesturgata 2, 101 Reykjavík

Tel: 552 3030 – www.kaffireykjavik.is

NASA

A large nightclub, featuring live bands, big-name DJs and plenty of room for dancing.

By Austurvöllur, 101 Reykjavík

Tel: 511 1313 – www.nasa.is



Thorvaldsen

A relaxed bistro-bar, which turns into a hot nightclub with DJs at weekends, popular with the over-30 crowd.

Austurstraeti 8, 101 Reykjavík

Tel: 511 1413 – www.thorvaldsen.is

An extensive guide to cafés, pubs, bars and clubs and an updated event calendar is available on www.visitreykjavik.is. Visit the Reykjavík Tourist Information Centre for even more detailed information.

Vegamot

Vegamot is a trendy bistro-bar with DJs at weekends and a favourite place for a Sunday brunch.

Vegamotastigur 4, 101 Reykjavík

Tel: 511 30 40 – www.vegamot.is



Trendy Reykjavík

Whether you are after designer brands, unique Icelandic design or quality souvenirs, you will be spoilt for choice when shopping in Reykjavík. Even better, you can take it home tax-free!

Downtown Shopping

Reykjavík's main shopping street, **Laugavegur**, runs through the city centre. On Laugavegur, its side streets and on the neighbouring street **Skolavordustigur**, you will find everything from designer labels to streetwear in addition to jewellery, arts and crafts, quirky souvenirs and unique Icelandic design products. On weekends, you will find the **Flea Market (Kolaportid)** by Reykjavík Harbour overflowing with bric-a-brac and Icelandic delicacies, such as fermented shark, dried fish, horse meat sausages, tons of liquorice and much more!

Shopping Centres

Kringlan shopping centre, located just outside the city centre, has over 150 shops, restaurants and service outlets, including fashion wear, food stores and gifts. The shopping centre includes a multi-screen cinema and a food court. Reykjavík City Theatre is part of the same complex.

Smaralind shopping centre is located in the geographical centre of the Reykjavík Capital Area. It has around

70 shops and other service outlets, including multi-national shopping chains, a variety of fashion stores, supermarkets, gift shops, a multi-screen cinema and several cafés and restaurants.

Tax-free Shopping

As a visitor to Iceland, whenever you buy goods for more than ISK 4,000 in one shop, you are entitled to a partial tax refund. Participating shops normally display a Tax-Free Shopping sticker in the window.

When you buy the products in the shop you pay the full price, but you should ask for a "tax-free" form, which entitles you to a 15% refund on the goods you just bought. The money can be refunded at the Reykjavík Tourist Information Centre Forex Bank in the city centre, or at the airport when you leave.



Shops

Elm Design

Icelandic design featuring women's clothing with a focus on simple and classic designs made from quality, natural fabrics.
Laugavegur 1, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 511 0992 – www.elm.is

Franch Michelsen

Watchmaker offering high quality watches and jewellery. Brands include Rolex, Hugo Boss, Diesel and Georg Jensen.
Laugavegur 15, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 511 1900

Kirsuberjatred

Unique Icelandic design giftware, including clothing, ceramics, jewellery and handbags made from fish skin.
Vesturgata 4, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 562 8990 – www.kirs.is

Reykjavík
871±2

Landnámssýningin
**The Settlement
Exhibition**

Step into the Viking Age

An archaeological site plan of a Viking longhouse, showing the layout of the building and surrounding structures. The plan is drawn in white lines on a dark red background. It features a large rectangular main structure with a central circular feature, possibly a hearth or a well. There are smaller rectangular structures and a curved wall on the right side. The overall layout suggests a well-organized settlement.

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 A.D. It includes relics of human habitation from about 871, the oldest such site found in Iceland.

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

The Settlement Exhibition 871±2 is located at Adalstraeti 16.

Reykjavík City Museum
www.reykjavik871.is



City of Reykjavík



Nornabudin

A witch shop for those interested in the supernatural. It stocks everything needed for positive spell-making, including Icelandic herbs, crystals, runes and voodoo dolls.
Vesturgata 12, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 552 3540

Saevar Karl

Saevar Karl offers men's and women's clothing from well-known international brand names such as Armani, Versace and Dolce & Gabbana.
Bankastræti 7, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 551 3470 – www.saevarkarl.is

66° North

Originally a manufacturer of protective gear for Icelandic fishermen, 66° North offers high quality and versatile outdoor clothing.
Bankastræti 5, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 517 6020 – www.66north.is

Spaksmannsspjarir

Translated as "wise men's clothing", Spaksmannsspjarir offers original Icelandic design clothing for women, inspired by Icelandic nature and made of natural materials.
Bankastræti 11, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 551 2090 – www.spaksmannsspjarir.is

12 Tonar

Independent record shop which stocks a wide selection of Icelandic music. The helpful staff can help you find the perfect audio souvenir of your visit.
Skolavordustigur 15, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 511 5656 – www.12tonar.is

Many other interesting shops can be found during a leisurely stroll around the city centre. An extensive guide to downtown shopping is also available on www.visitreykjavik.is



Family-friendly Reykjavík

Families will find plenty of fun activities in Reykjavík – splashing about in a thermal pool, trying on Viking armour, or viewing some of the largest mammals on earth at close quarters – the list is endless.

The city's thermal pools are a favourite with children and most have facilities such as waterslides, fountains and floating toys. The thermal beach at **Nautholsvík** is also a great place to take the family on a sunny summer's day.

A popular Reykjavík family activity is to feed the ducks at **Tjornin Lake**. For more animal fun, the Reykjavík Park and Zoo in **Laugardalur Valley** is an ideal place for a family outing. The Zoo houses about 150 animals of 19 species, including farmyard animals and wild animals such as seals and reindeer. After viewing the animals at close quarters, perhaps watching the seals being fed or riding an Icelandic horse, the children can enjoy the rides and activities in the adjacent Family Park.

Reykjavík Park and Zoo, Hafrafell by Engjavegur, 104 Reykjavík
Tel: 575 7800 – www.husdyragardur.is



Reykjavík museums offer a great combination of fun and learning. The National Museum and Saga Museum allow the children to experience in an interactive way how the Vikings fought and feasted. Live actors at the open-air Reykjavík City Museum – Arbaejarsafn offer an insight into how people in Reykjavík lived in the old days.

What better way to amaze the little ones than by viewing nature's wonders first-hand? The magnificent countryside around Reykjavík is an open text book on nature and geology. Children will be fascinated by the sight of bubbling hot springs, gleaming glaciers and thundering waterfalls of all shapes and sizes. Outdoor activities such as horse-riding and whale-watching are sure to be a hit with the kids and an unforgettable experience for the whole family.

Finally, a great idea after a busy day of fun activities is to treat the whole family to an Icelandic hot dog or a big delicious chocolate and candy covered ice-cream (a very Icelandic family tradition!), available in most snack outlets.

Note that care must be taken when travelling with children to sites involving hot springs, lava rocks and glaciers, particularly at less developed sites.





Getting Around

Reykjavík is a compact city which is easy to navigate, whether on your own two feet or by public transport. In addition, magnificent countryside awaits just minutes away from the city centre. Visit the Reykjavík Tourist Information Centre for help in planning your activities.

On Foot

The compact city centre is easy to get around on foot. You can explore Reykjavík at your own pace or on one of the many organised tours on offer.

When exploring Reykjavík, do not be afraid to stop and ask for directions, since people are very friendly and almost everyone speaks English.

Public Transport

Reykjavík has an excellent bus system. Most buses run every 10–20 min-

utes, and every 30 minutes in the evening and on weekends. Bus information is available at the bus stations at **Hlemmur** and **Laekjartorg**, at the Reykjavík Tourist Information Centre and on **www.bus.is**.

A flat fare is charged on the buses. You may need to change buses: ask for a “skiptimidi” (transfer ticket) on the first bus and you will not have to pay again on the second bus if changing within 45 minutes.

The Reykjavík Tourist Card, available at the Reykjavík



Tourist Information Centre in addition to many hotels, museums and other outlets, offers unlimited bus travel for 24, 48 or 72 hours and unlimited access to most Reykjavik museums and thermal baths.

A great way to see all the main sites in one go and with an excellent view, is with the hop on – hop off city sightseeing bus operated from May to mid-September.

Airport Transfer

Flybus is the airport shuttle that runs between Keflavik International

Airport and the city of Reykjavik. The shuttle schedule is coordinated with airline flight schedules. The bus stops at many of the larger hotels in the city to drop off and pick up travellers. For further information on the Flybus schedule and fares visit www.flybus.is.

Scheduled Coaches – BSI Terminal

Coaches make regular trips from Reykjavik to various towns and places around Iceland. Tickets are sold at the



Eleven Reasons to Visit Reykjavik's Thermal Pools and Baths

Reduce stress. Loosen up stiff joints and muscles. Alleviate jet lag. Strengthens the heart and lungs. Cures hangovers. Helps insomnia. Inspires the powers of imagination. Fortifies the body. Improves moods. Soothes the mind. And, they are the right place to meet Reykjavik residents and get reliable information about what's happening in the city.



**You have not experienced the real Reykjavik . . .
until you have experienced the city's Thermal Pools and Baths.**

w w w . s p a c i t y . i s

BSI Coach Terminal, situated close to the city centre. Visit the Reykjavík Tourist Information Centre for information about visiting other parts of the country.

BSI Terminal

Vatnsmyrarvegur 10, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 562 1011 – www.bsi.is

Taxi Services

Several taxi companies operate in Reykjavík. Taxi ranks are dotted around the city and the taxi companies have phone numbers that you can call to get a taxi from anywhere in the city. Some have special offers for transport to and from Keflavík International Airport. All taxis have official mileage meters, and taxi fares are charged at standard rates. There is no need to tip.

Hreyfill-Baejarleidir Taxis

Tel: 588 5522 or 553 3500

B.S.R. Taxis

Tel: 561 0000

Car Rental

Many visitors enjoy the freedom of renting a vehicle and seeing the sights beyond Reykjavík at their own pace. Cars of all types and sizes can be rented at Reykjavík's many car rental agencies; special offers may be available in conjunction with flight bookings. Check at the Reykjavík Tourist Information Centre for the best deals each time.

It is in general easy and safe to drive in Iceland, however, driving conditions can be different to what visitors are used to at home and

special care must be taken when driving in the interior. Visitors are advised to always seek information and guidance prior to setting off on their journey. Guides to safe driving can be accessed on the Traffic Directorate's website: www.umferdarstofa.is.

Avis Car Rental

Knarrarvogur 2, 104 Reykjavík
Tel: 591 4000 – www.avis.is

Budget Car Rental

BSI Terminal, Vatnsmyrarvegur 10, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 562 6060 – www.budget.is

Hertz Car Rental

Flugvallarvegur, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 505 0600 – www.hertz.is

Domestic Flights

Reykjavík's domestic airport, situated near the city centre, operates flights to other parts of the country and to Greenland and the Faroe Islands. All major towns in the country have their own airports. On certain routes, you can also choose to fly one way, and take the bus the other way. For further information on scheduled domestic flights, contact Air Iceland.

Air Iceland

Reykjavík Airport, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 570 3030 – www.airiceland.is



Where to Stay

Reykjavík has a wide range of accommodations, from youth hostels to 4-star hotels. Icelanders are known for their warm hospitality, so wherever you choose to stay, you will feel right at home. All the main hotels and guesthouses are well situated within the city, with easy access to all the attractions of the downtown area.

4-Star

Grand Hotel Reykjavík

A first-class hotel situated in a quiet area just outside the city centre near Laugar-
dalur Valley.

Sigtun 38, 105 Reykjavík

Tel: 514 8000 – www.grand.is

101 Hotel

A stylish boutique hotel located in the city centre. 101 Hotel is a member of Design Hotels.

Hverfisgata 10, 101 Reykjavík

Tel: 580 0101 – www.101hotel.is

Hotel Borg

A luxury hotel in the heart of Reykjavík, Hotel Borg is a unique and elegant Art Deco-style building, with no two rooms the same.

Posthusstraeti 11, 101 Reykjavík

Tel: 551 1440 – www.hotelborg.is

Hotel Holt

An elegant yet intimate first class hotel situated on a quiet street in central Reykjavík. The Gallery Restaurant is renowned for its gourmet cuisine.

Bergstadarstraeti 37, 101 Reykjavík

Tel: 552 5700 – www.holt.is

Hotel Loftleidir – Icelandair Hotels

Located near Reykjavík's domestic airport just outside the city centre, Hotel Loftleidir offers high quality accommodation and an indoor pool and spa.

Flugvallarvegur, 101 Reykjavík

Tel: 444 4500 – www.icehotels.is



Hotel Nordica – Icelandair Hotels

Large, stylish and modern hotel located just outside the city centre near Laugardalur Valley, with excellent views, a fully equipped fitness centre and an award-winning restaurant. Sudurlandsbraut 2, 108 Reykjavík
Tel: 444 5000 – www.icehotels.is

Hotel Odinsve

An elegant hotel with a highly-acclaimed restaurant, Siggí Hall, located in a quiet residential area in central Reykjavík. Thorsgata 1, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 511 6200, www.hotelodinsve.is

Radisson SAS Hotel Saga

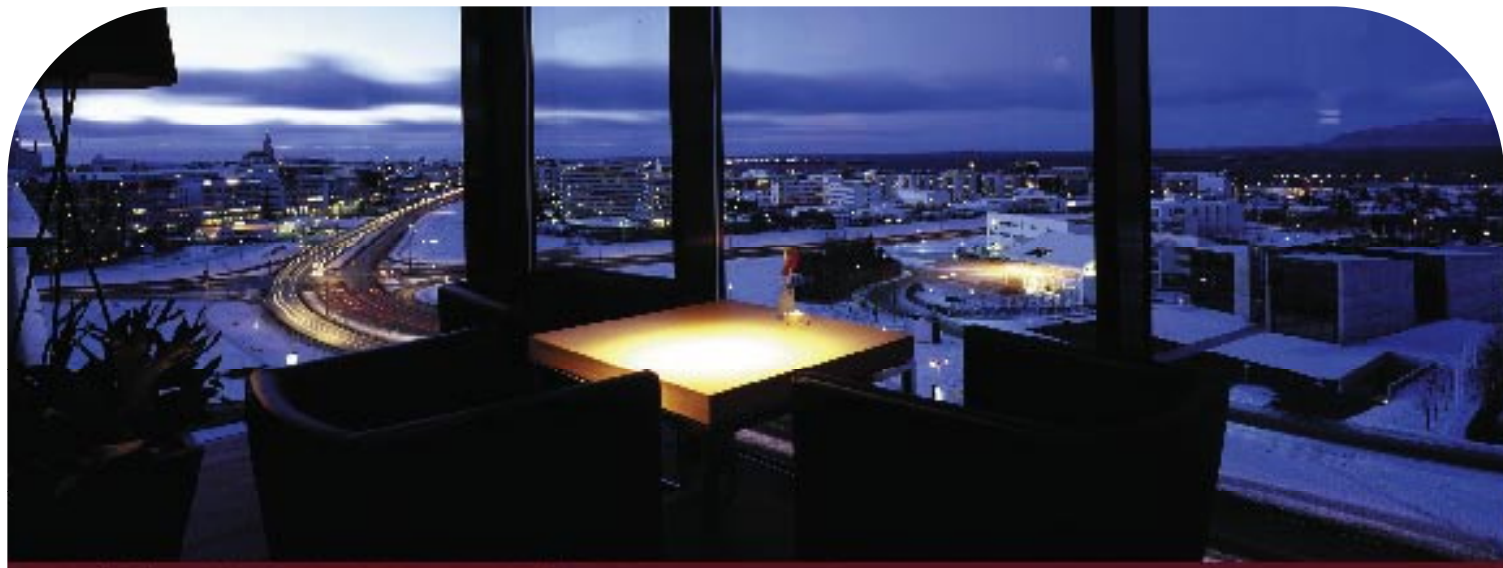
A large, modern hotel located in a quiet area just outside the city centre, with superb views, a spa, and one of the city's best restaurants. By Hagatorg, 107 Reykjavík
Tel: 525 9900 – www.radissonsas.is

Radisson SAS 1919 Hotel

Superbly designed lifestyle hotel, in one of the most beautiful historical buildings in Reykjavík city centre. Posthusstraeti 2, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 599 1000 – www.1919.reykjavik.radissonsas.com

Hotel Reykjavík Centrum

A charming hotel located on one of Reykjavík's most historic streets. The Reykjavík 871 +/- 2 Settlement Exhibition is housed under the hotel. Adalstraeti 16, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 514 6000 – www.hotelcentrum.is



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ICELANDAIRHOTELS

3-Star

CenterHotel Klopp

A hotel with modern rooms and studios, located next to Reykjavík's main shopping street.

Klapparstigur 26, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 595 8520 – www.centerhotels.is

CenterHotel Thingholt

A hotel with a focus on quality, modern design, located next to Reykjavík's main shopping street.

Thingholtsstraeti 3–5, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 595 8530 – www.centerhotels.is

Fosshotel Baron

A comfortable and centrally located hotel, with good ocean views.

Baronstigur 2–4, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 552 4488 – www.fosshotel.is

Fosshotel Lind

A comfortable and centrally located hotel. Raudararstigur 18, 105 Reykjavík

Tel: 562 3350 – www.fosshotel.is

Hotel Leifur Eiríksón

A family-run and comfortable hotel located across from Hallgrímskirkja Church.

Skólavordustigur 45, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 562 0800 – www.hotelleifur.is

Hotel Plaza

Modern and well-appointed hotel located in the heart of Reykjavík city centre.

Adalstraeti 4, 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 590 1400 – www.plaza.is

Hotel Reykjavík

Modern hotel with a relaxing atmosphere, centrally located.

Raudararstigur 37, 105 Reykjavík
Tel: 514 7000 – www.hotelreykjavik.is

Hotel Park Inn Island

Modern hotel, located near the business district and Laugardalur Valley.

Armuli 9, 108 Reykjavík
Tel: 595 7000 – www.parkinn.com

An extensive guide to accommodation, from luxury hotels to hostels and camping grounds, can be found on www.visitreykjavik.is. Visitors are advised to book ahead, especially if visiting during the summer months.





The Centre

Reykjavik Tourist Information Centre

Adalstraeti 2, 101 Reykjavik

Tel: 590 1500 – www.visitreykjavik.is

Opening hours:

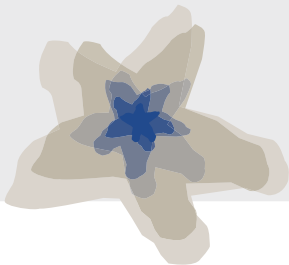
1 June to **15** September:
8.30–19.00 daily

16 September to **31** May:
9.00–18.00 weekdays
10.00–16.00 Saturdays
10.00–14.00 Sundays

Useful Information

Reykjavik's official tourist information centre, situated in a restored historic building in the heart of the old city, is the key to a successful Reykjavik city break and holiday in Iceland.

The Centre offers extensive information on tourist destinations and services all over the country, free booking service, box office, Reykjavik Tourist Card, Internet, money exchange services, phone centre and much more. Knowledgeable and friendly information personnel are there to serve all your travel needs, help you sort out your problems, answer your questions and plan the perfect holiday in Iceland.



Getting to Reykjavík

Reykjavík is closer than you think. Flight time is 2–4 hours from Europe and 5–6 hours from east coast USA. For updated information on flights to Reykjavík, visit www.visiticeland.com or www.visitreykjavik.is.

Internet services

To check your e-mail or surf the net, drop in at one of Reykjavík's Internet cafés or café Hot Spots with free wireless Internet access. Internet service is also available at the Reykjavík Tourist Information Centre, and at all branches of the City Library.

Libraries

The Reykjavík City Library (main branch on Tryggvagata) and The National and University Library on Arngrimgata both offer a selection of magazines and newspapers in English.

Business Hours

The opening hours of most businesses are from 9.00 until 17.00. Some companies and institutions change their work hours to 8.00 to 16.00 in the summer months.

Shopping hours are generally from 10.00 until 18.00 weekdays (Monday to Friday). On Saturdays, most shops are open from 10.00 until 16.00, while some are closed on Saturdays in summer. Most shops are closed on Sundays, but both shopping centres are open daily.

Public Holidays

The following days are public holidays in Iceland. Most shops and businesses are closed on these days, but on many public holidays some food stores remain open.

New Year's Day: 1 January

Maundy Thursday: the Thursday before Easter

Good Friday: the Friday before Easter

Easter Sunday

Easter Monday

May Day: 1 May

Ascension Day: the Thursday 40 days after Easter

Whit Sunday: the seventh Sunday after Easter

Whit Monday: the day after Whit Sunday

National Day: 17 June

Summer Bank Holiday: the first Monday in August

Christmas Eve: public holiday from noon

Christmas Day

Boxing Day: the day after Christmas

New Year's Eve: public holiday from noon.

Money

The Icelandic monetary unit is the krona (plural kronur) (ISK). All Icelandic banks provide foreign exchange.

Weather

Thanks to the Gulf Stream, Iceland enjoys a cool temperate ocean climate: cool in summer (average around 12°C) and fairly mild in winter (average around 0°C). However, the weather is very changeable and visitors should be prepared for the unexpected.

Language

The national language is Icelandic, a language of a Germanic origin, related to the Scandinavian languages. English is, however, widely spoken.

Time

Iceland is on the Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) throughout the year.

Telephone

The code into Iceland from overseas is +354 plus a seven-digit number. There are no area codes.

Tipping

Service and VAT are invariably included in prices in Iceland and tipping is never required. However, if you are very pleased with provided service, Icelanders are generally not offended if they are offered a tip.

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