

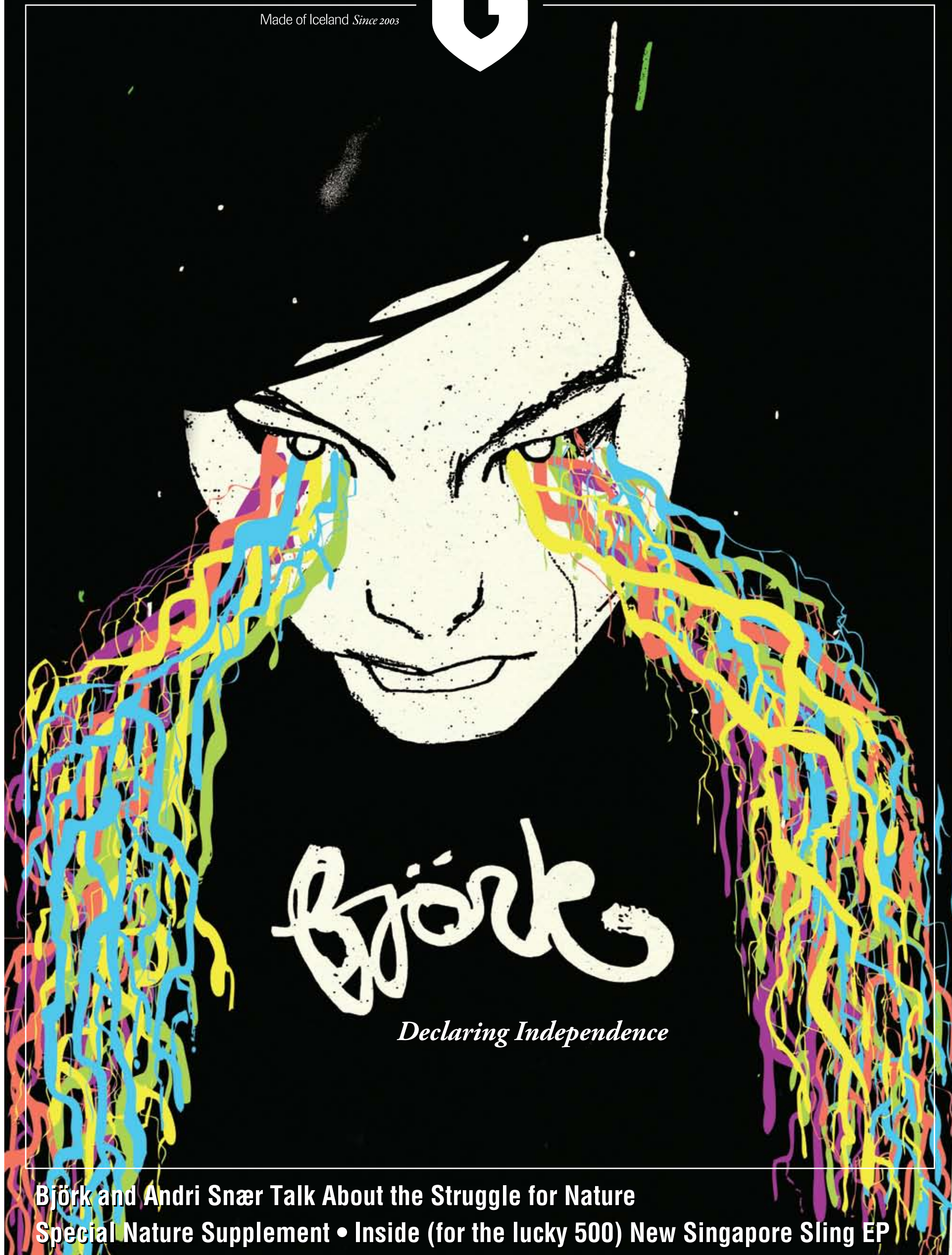
FREE
YOUR FREE COPY

The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

Made of Iceland *Since 2003*



YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO LIFE, TRAVEL
AND ENTERTAINMENT IN ICELAND.



Björk

Declaring Independence

**Björk and Andri Snær Talk About the Struggle for Nature
Special Nature Supplement • Inside (for the lucky 500) New Singapore Sling EP**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Opinion

06 WHY TRY TO BE A BIG BAD CITY WOLF?
An opinion by Alexandra Hertell

Articles

06 SHIT, PISS, VOMIT AND BLOOD. AND CUM
Hugleikur Dagsson is getting tired of bodily fluids

08 PUNK RAWK YOUR HOUSE
The a-b-c of living off-grid

10 DREAMLAND – A SELF-HELP MANUAL TO A FRIGHTENED NATION
Excerpt from the book

12 RE-ENVISIONING REYKJAVÍK’S TRANSIT SYSTEM
City councilman Gísli Marteinn on Reykjavík “car city”

12 RIDING REYKJAVÍK
Philosopher Röbert Haraldsson changes his ways

14 ORGAN THEME-MARKET
The new street-market is stuffed with great bargains

14 BUY ICELANDIC DESIGN ONLINE
Webstore Birkiland stocks cutting-edge designs

18 JUNE 17
Nathaniel Flagg has his first National Day experience

20 DOCUMENTING ICELANDIC CULTURE
Project Iceland released at last

22 CD REVIEWS
Sigurður Guðmundsson / Múgsefjun

22 CONCERT REVIEW
Loop Troop

24 CD REVIEWS
Bang Gang / Dísa

24 CONCERT REVIEW
Hraun

26 PAINTING THE NATIONAL PRIDE
Group-exhibition in an old stable

26 HOW TO FIGHT A POLAR BEAR
The Essential Iceland Survival Guide

Feature

16 THE MACHINE IS DEAF
Interview with environmentalists Andri Snær Magnason and Björk

Destinations

30 EUROPE’S LARGEST NATIONAL PARK ESTABLISHED
The Kingdom of Vatnajökull has plenty to offer

31 GLACIAL DOGS
Dogsledding on Mýrdalsjökull glacier

EDITORIAL

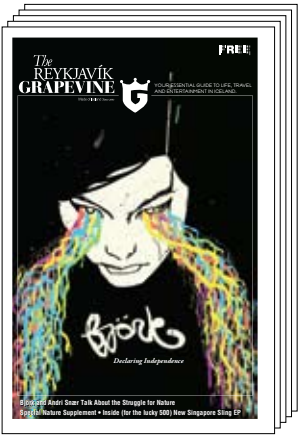
Welcome to the new Grapevine. This is our first issue after extensive redesign of the paper. It is impressive, but what is even more impressive is that we managed to put this paper together in less than one week’s time, since all our effort was concentrated on putting out our five-year anniversary issue last week.

This issue is dedicated to nature. This is tied in with efforts from several grass roots organisations to save Icelandic nature from being laid to waste by industrial giants who yearn for our energy. A movement of movements is a phrase that has been used to describe the global justice movement, a loose collection of individuals and groups that are working towards social justice in the world. In Iceland, our very own movement of movements has been forming in recent years; a loose collection of individuals and smaller grass-roots organization that are working to preserve Icelandic nature.

The culmination of this effort will be on Saturday, June 28 when Sigur Rós and Björk will host a free concert in Reykjavík to raise awareness for this struggle. We decided to do our bit. In addition to placing special focus on the issue, and interview Björk and author Andri Snær on their involvement in the project, we approached the group and offered them to guest edit eight pages in this issue. The Grapevine’s special Nature supplement was edited by Hanna Björk Valsdóttir, Andri Snær Magnason, Guðrún Tryggvadóttir and Hrund Skarphéðinsdóttir.

I encourage you all to go see these giants of Icelandic music on Saturday. I encourage you all to listen to what they are saying. The time to act is now.

THE COVER



COVER ILLUSTRATION BY
Bobby Breiðholt — www.breidholt.com

ON COVER:
Björk

MASTHEAD

The Reykjavík Grapevine
Vesturgata 5, 101 Reykjavík
www.grapevine.is
grapevine@grapevine.is
www.myspace.com/reykjavikgrapevine
Published by Fröken ehf.

Editorial:
+354 540 3600 / editor@grapevine.is
Advertising:
+354 540 3605 / ads@grapevine.is
Publisher:
+354 540 3601 / publisher@grapevine.is

Publisher:
Hilmar Steinn Grétarsson
publisher@grapevine.is
Editor:
Sveinn Birkir Björnsson / birkir@grapevine.is
Assistant Editor:
Steinunn Jakobsdóttir / steinunn@grapevine.is

Contributing Writers:
Haukur Magnússon / haukur@grapevine.is
Ian Watson / www.ianwatson.org
Páll Hilmarsson / pallih@gmail.com

Editorial Intern:
Nathaniel Flagg
Oddur Sturluson
Sigurður Kjartan Kristinsson

Art Director:
Gunnar Þorvaldsson / gunni@grapevine.is

Photographer:
Gunnlaugur Arnar Sigurðsson (GAS)
gulli@grapevine.is

Marketing Director:
Jón Trausti Sigurðarson / jontrausti@grapevine.is

Sales Director:
Aðalsteinn Jörundsson / adalsteinn@grapevine.is

Distribution:
Þórir Gunnar Jónsson / thorir@grapevine.is

Proofreader:
Jim Rice

Press releases:
listings@grapevine.is
Submissions inquiries:
editor@grapevine.is

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

General inquiries:
grapevine@grapevine.is

The Reykjavík Grapevine is published 18 times a year by Fröken 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. Although the magazine has endeavoured to ensure that all information inside the magazine is correct, prices and details may be subject to change. The Reykjavík Grapevine can be found in Reykjavík, Akureyri, Egilsstaðir, Selfoss, Keflavík, Ísafjörður and at key locations around road #1 and at all major tourist attractions and tourist information centres.

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').

Printed by Landsprent ehf. in 30.000 copies.

ÁSDÍS DÖGG ÓMARSÐÓTTIR

A PROFESSIONAL GUIDE AND GEOLOGIST THAT ALSO WORKS AT CINTAMANI CENTER ON LAUGAVEGUR. A DEVOTED ADVENTURER WITH A TASTE FOR CROSS COUNTRY SKIING, MOUNTAIN BIKING AND LONGBOARD RIDES IN 101 REYKJAVÍK.

TECNOSTRETCH TOP: JÓNÍNA CM-524

FLEECE PANTS: ÁSDÍS CM-815

WWW.CINTAMANI.IS



DRESS CODE ICELAND



LETTERS

Sour Grapes

SAY YOUR PIECE, VOICE YOUR OPINION, SEND YOUR LETTERS TO LETTERS@GRAPEVINE.IS.

I just yesterday returned to Canada from a 3 week trip to the UK and to Iceland. While in Reykjavik, I had the chance to read your English language paper, which I found very interesting and entertaining.

One of the Grapevine articles in this week's edition talked about how Iceland is in recession at the moment and the article encourages tourists to spend their Euros, pounds and dollars to support the local Iceland economy. Before travelling to Iceland, I had heard from every source about the high cost of restaurant food and drink, so my only surprise was to see just how ridiculous the prices really are. They are outrageous! I know that the prices include a 24.5% VAT and the service charge, but that is small comfort.

I had the chance to visit some of the local large grocery stores (e.g. Bonus) to confirm what I had suspected at the outset.....grocery prices in Iceland are far more affordable than what a tourist might imagine when paying 1200 ISK (\$16 Canadian or USD) for a hamburger and fries or 2900 ISK (\$38) for a filet of cod or 900 ISK (\$12) for a lager.

It is a wonder to me that Islanders continue to tolerate this situation, even if we tourists from all over the world have no choice but to pay the costs if we wish to visit. At any rate, as much as I enjoyed my visit to your country, I do not plan to return, for no reason other than the exorbitant food and drink costs. There are many other countries in the world with as much or more to offer where the costs are more reasonable.

By the way, just in case you think I am a naïve Canadian travel rookie who doesn't know the world, I have lived and worked full-time in Europe for 7 years, have travelled extensively there for over 45 years and in the last year alone have travelled in South America, Central America, the USA and the UK. Regards,

M. Sabey
Ottawa, Canada

Dear Sabey,
What you are describing is our reality. I have no pity for your complaints. I have to pay these prices every day, not just during a weekend stop over.
Editor.

Peculiar Reykjavik
This peculiar place; that I cannot help being fascinated by. The uneven fabric of housing, beautifully restored old wooden houses clad with the characteristic corrugated aluminium in individual colours next to rusty "needing

a loving hand" houses again next to brand new build anonymous facades all set in this perfect landscape, ever-changing light and weather. Loving this unpredictable city and setting, getting to now every corner and irregularity of the city it breaks my heart to see how it has during the last year started to fall apart.

It surprises/frightens me that here are no authorities taking control, not to me any known visions of where and how this city is wished to be developed, no long-term visions. It seems to me that the major concern here is finances and how to make it breed here and now.

Question: so where are the visions? What are your visions?

This is a few of my visions on behalf of the city Reykjavik: - to keep/continue the diversity of the community the independent variety of retail (by not letting the retail rents raise to a max) - avoid splitting housing and retail into certain areas, by making an effort to stimulate and create varied and diverse spaces between build areas and at ground level of new build - spare and keep the existing public spaces and allow for new types of public spaces to develop and hereby letting the community having "playgrounds" to interact and develop across - use your extraordinary setting and history to inspire how and where the visions of Reykjavik is going and not trying to remake other known cities and their mistakes.

Luckily it seems like things are moving smaller groups of people are taking the action into their own hands and just do something about it without any financial support - this is also why I love Reykjavik, enthusiastic and daring.

Best wishes
Julie

Dear Julie,
You should run for office. I'll vote for you.
Editor

Dear Reykjavik Grapevine,
in issue #16, Sveinn Birkir Björnsson advises tourists to "1. Wear normal clothes. (...) 99% of the time it is possible to spot tourists in Reykjavik from miles away. I even play a game with my friends where we guess people's nationality based on their attire. Americans are usually easiest to spot. Followed by Germans and the French. Here is a little hint: you don't need a bright orange parka or hiking boots to traverse Reykjavik. Dress like a tourist and you are

automatically excluded. Just dress like normal folks."

Having just spent a few days traversing Reykjavik in green rubber boots, I feel qualified to comment on Sveinn's advice. Of course even us stupid tourists know we don't need orange parkas and hiking boots in Reykjavik. However, most of us probably don't come to Iceland just to go clubbing and shopping in Reykjavik. It's a lot less unpleasant to be underdressed for the few days we spend in the city than to be underdressed on Mt. Hekla, and, face it, we can't very well go to Iceland by car and take all our wardrobe. We have to carry everything we bring with us, and that makes you think twice about bringing the Imelda Marcos shoe collection.

"But why, oh why the orange parkas?", I hear you asking. As a matter of fact you'll see a lot of people in German cities cycling to the office in full "I could go ice climbing any time in this outfit!" gear. In a country with no wilderness left it is considered quite ok to dress in a way that shows you have access to the wild outdoors, (e.g. by going to Iceland). I guess that's the reason why it's next to impossible to buy outdoor gear in Germany that doesn't scream OUTDOOR GEAR in, well, bright orange.

As for Americans, Germans and French being the easiest to spot: I suppose these are also the people you see the most of, so your pattern recognition can go to work on them. If, say, Rhodians, Austrians and Paraguayans were the largest tourist groups in Iceland, you'd be able to spot them from miles away.

Dressing "like normal folks", I'm afraid, is a relative concept. Exclude tourists all you want if they're trying to get into a stylish club wearing their hiking boots and orange parkas. But in all other cases, please try to remember that they are dressed more or less "like normal folks". They don't do it to annoy you, and they don't do it because they're stupid. They do it because they're not from Iceland, and you can't very well blame them for that. (In fact, you could, but it would be a Nazi thing to do. I can't really recommend it.)

Having said that, I promise to spare you the sight of the green rubber boots next time I come to Reykjavik.

Kind regards,
Kathrin

Dear Kathrin,
A pair of normal shoes was probably too much luggage...?
Editor



THE CENTRE // THE OFFICIAL TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE IN REYKJAVIK

All you need

for a great holiday

City Centre Booking Service // Bus Tours and Activities
Hotels and Guesthouses // Car Rentals // Horse Riding
Whale Watching // Internet and Phone Centre

VAT Cash Refund – Money Exchange



Iceland's Largest Booking Service

FREE BOOKING SERVICE

Simply the most comprehensive Booking Services in the City specialized in customizing and developing travel packages to suit your interests and needs.

We can arrange your accommodation, transfers, tours, flights and car hire based on your requirements.



Reykjavík Welcome Card

Enjoy the Thermal Pools, Museums, Public Transport and discounts.



24 / 48 / 72 hour cards - Great Value For Money

Sold at the Centre and most Reykjavík hotels.

www.visitreykjavik.is



Adalstraeti 2 · 101 Reykjavik · Tel +354 590 1550 · info@visitreykjavik.is

Hressingarskálinn

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

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



AtlasFrelsi

More Minutes · More Countries · Lower Price



The most sold prepaid calling card in Iceland!

Prepaid International Calling Card

Save money on international calling

The best way to call home from Iceland



Available in all 10-11 stores

Available for 500, 1.000 and 2.000 ISK

OPINION



Why Try to be a Big Bad City Wolf?

BY ALEXANDRA HERTELL

It seems to me that the higher powers in Reykjavik are trying to be a wolf in sheep's clothing. They are allowing developers with the guise of modernity to lay the seeds to a concrete jungle. The energy and heritage one feels when walking downtown would be diminished or non-existent if lacklustre buildings aligned the sidewalks instead of M&M coloured iron dwellings. The city council should help preserve these houses, even the most decayed ones. Especially when they are left to decay on purpose so that they can be bulldozed. I've even heard of people renting rooms to junkies, alcoholics and the like in order for the property value to go to shit just to make it easier for a developer to sweep in and build a dazzling glass and cement monster.

Just as woolly sweaters symbolise Icelandic pride amongst the elder and the young, these vastly different generations also agree on conserving the houses in which the spirit of downtown is embodied. Its safeguarding should be on the top of the city's agenda. Who wants to replicate the drab grey façade associated with big cities where people don't welcome each other with a friendly "góðan daginn"? I have a personal theory that happiness is aligned with a culture's preservation because it makes you proud of who you are. Believe it or not, the endangered status of these old houses wilts away not only an inescapable past but also a bright and un-homogenised future. Why be a grimacing wolf in sheep's clothing when you can be a proud bleating sheep?

Other countries, such as my own, have fallen into the modernity trap only to regret it. For example in my capital, Old San Juan, some of the striking cobblestone streets that have been immortalised in our literature and song were removed and paved with tar because they were uncomfortably bumpy for our twenty-first century cars. The heydays of traversing the city centre in horse and buggy were long gone so removing the historically significant cobblestones for a smoother car ride was justifiable. Now the en vogue government is putting laws in order to make the centre of Old San Juan purely pedestrian in order to, get this, protect the further damage caused by cars to the same cobblestones that were partially removed in the first place. I guess the trend to mimic modern cities had become passé.

I truly and whole-heartedly hope that Reykjavik does not continue to succumb to such trivial fads and that the people in charge of the city's policies seriously take a good look in the mirror to understand and praise who they are as a nation, rickety corrugated iron houses and all. 🇮🇸

INTERVIEW BY HAUKUR S. MAGNÚSSON — ILLUSTRATION BY HUGLEIKUR DAGSSON



Self-portrait.

Shit, Piss, Vomit and Blood. And Cum

Hugleikur Dagsson is getting tired of bodily fluids

Cartoonist Hugleikur Dagsson needs no introduction to regular readers of the Grapevine, as he used to contribute regularly to the magazine in the past. Although it's been a while since Dagsson's perverted stick figures have appeared in this publication, he wants for neither fame nor recognition these days. Picked up by international publishing giant Penguin in 2006, Dagsson's work has now been released in several different countries and translated to many foreign languages.

Dagsson's third global release via Penguin (to be titled Is This Some Kind of Joke?) is scheduled this fall, and he is a regular contributor to Esquire UK and Loaded. He's written three successful plays and several more successful books. He is pretty much made of gold. A couple of weeks ago, he returned from Holland where he spent the winter working on various projects. The move coincided with the publication of the new Icelandic Phone book, which oddly enough includes a feature length comic by Dagsson, Garðarshólmi, spread over the pages. Since it is awesome, the Grapevine decided it was a good idea to meet up with him and learn what he's been up to.

"There's always a complaint here or there, but that's no big deal," says Dagsson of about the reception to his books. "The Irish Sun reported that some interest group took offence to my first book, and that just served as a nice ad for it. They've been selling pretty well, and critics seem to like them – judging by their reviews they see the same good in them that I do. Of course a few think they suck. Good luck to them. However, I am sure some people think I'm vastly overrated. I've gotten so much media attention, there's gotta be some annoyed guys out there saying "Hugleikur can't draw" or something."

Can you draw?

"Yes. You can clearly see it in the works of genius that are my books; they were made by an art school graduate. Nobody could draw stick figures with such character. But really, I mean that. I truly believe that had I not mastered all these model drawing classes, my stick figures wouldn't be nearly as good or expressive."

THE FOUR HUMOUROUS BODILY FLUIDS

Dagsson's story of how he started documenting the

morbid stick figures and their sordid lives has been told ad nauseam, so we talk about what he has in store for them. "I am currently working on the fifth one, and I think that one will be the last. It'll probably be a bit strange compared to the others, the last one; I've pretty much milked the concept dry. Bloodmilked it. It's limited what you can do with tiny stick figures on an A5 sheet. You've got shit, piss, vomit and blood. Those are the four bodily fluids you can joke about. Oh, and cum. That's five, then."

What about menstrual blood?

"Ah, that's right. Then they're six, I guess. But honestly, I often recycle old jokes. You could even say I only have twenty or thirty jokes that I keep re-telling in different ways. But that's what all cartoonists do. Gary Larson does it... I only have to make sure I don't become like [Garfield creator] Jim Davis. You can't even read that shit anymore. But you do what you need. It's not about selling out – it's about cashing in."

So you're really making the last stick figure funnybook?

"I think so, yeah. I could go on forever, but it would soon become neither fun nor funny."

How important is the [stick figure] form to your work?

"Well, with the stick figures and my books, I feel I've created a world where they all live. My funnybooks are like collections of Polaroid snapshots from that world, while longer stick figure works like "Garðarshólmi" are more like documentaries on it. The stick figures are important to the stories in a way, they are easier for the brain to process and thus the joke is more immediate."

BEAUTIFUL MONSTERS

Garðarshólmi is Dagsson's latest published work. It can be found on the margins of Iceland's 2008 phonebook, and it has yet to be translated. That's bad news for you English-speaker types, as it is both thoughtful and hilarious. It also features some of Iceland's best-loved mythological creatures of yore in full action, and is quite educational.

"I think the galore of old Icelandic ghost stories and monster tales are a criminally under-utilised resource. Our collection of Santas are probably the

best known of those creatures, but they even dress them in the Coca Cola suit these days. At least they are being honoured and remembered. The Christmas Cat [homicidal feline that prays on poor kids during Christmas] isn't even used that much. And that's a beautiful monster!

"In our past and our stories, we've got this massive database of monsters and mythological creatures that are almost never used for anything creative these days. We're talking about a literal goldmine for the horror genre, one that's being steadfastly ignored. I thought that it was strange and I wanted to explore that a bit in Garðarshólmi – although that's more like a monster movie for the whole family than a proper horror one. We don't really make horror stories anymore; maybe because we're under the impression that we're this "literary nation". It's made us scared of entertainment culture – we think it's all lowbrow shit. Which is a huge misconception."

Is "lowbrow" even a cultural expression in the English language? Isn't it a specifically Icelandic thing?

"I think I saw it in a review of one of my books, actually."

Hugleikur Dagsson is currently working on some paintings, as well as finishing the fifth book in his series. He has agreed to help the Grapevine report on the old Icelandic mythological creatures in a series of articles that will commence shortly.

I OFTEN RECYCLE OLD JOKES. YOU COULD EVEN SAY I ONLY HAVE TWENTY OR THIRTY JOKES THAT I KEEP RE-TELLING IN DIFFERENT WAYS. BUT THAT'S WHAT ALL CARTOONISTS DO.





NATURE IS THE ADVENTURE!



Rafting



Glacial Hike



Diving



Ice Climbing



Caving



Canoeing



Kayaking



Snorkeling



Super-Jeep



Hiking



Sightseeing



Whale Watching



ATV/Quad



Horse Riding



Climbing



Snowmobile

www.arcticrafting.is | info@arcticrafting.is | +354-562-7000

NEWS

Sugarcubes, Björk LPs Get Luxury Treat- ment

BY HAUKUR S. MAGNÚSSON

Upon learning that the The Sugarcubes and Björk’s back catalogues were to be reissued on deluxe heavyweight vinyl, via something called Half Speed Direct Metal Mastering, the Grapevine called up Sugarcubes/Ghostigital vocalist Einar Örn Benediktsson and asked him what that meant, and why. “It’s now exactly twenty years since Life’s Too Good [Sugarcubes’ debut] was released, and we thought it would be nice to mark the occasion via a vinyl reissue,” says Benediktsson. “In the process, we decided to use the opportunity to re-release some more old albums using that Half Speed Direct Metal Mastering technique. They say it makes the albums sound really good.”

Indeed, April marked the twentieth anniversary of the seminal Sugarcubes record, which featured some truly great songs (Motorcrash, Birthday, Deus to name a few) and introduced the world to both Björk and the Bad Taste collective’s way of doing things. Those who’ve yet to feast upon the Sugarcubes’ sonic delights are advised to do so at their earliest convenience – if you can’t wait ‘til the re-release date of June 30 (or don’t have a record player), their albums may be found at Bad Taste’s web-store, smekkleysa.net.

As for the Half Speed Direct Metal Mastering, the Internet tells us that it is the newest technology in vinyl manufacturing, and that it greatly improves on the already (literally) groovy sound of vinyl. Benediktsson says he looks forward to hearing the remasters in all their Half Speed Direct Metal Mastered glory. “I’ve always been big on vinyl, and look forward to hearing the revamped version. It’ll be something new.”

The following Sugarcubes/Björk albums will be re-released by One Little Indian come June 30, on limited edition, individually numbered, heavy weight 200 gram virgin vinyl:

SUGARCUBES:
Here Today, Tomorrow Next Week!; It’s It!; Life’s Too Good; The Great Crossover Potential; Stick Around For Joy.

BJÖRK:
Debut; Post; Homogenic; Volta; Telegram; Gling-Gló (with Trío Guðmundar Ingólfssonar); Medúlla; Selmasongs; Greatest Hits; Drawing Restraint 9.

Green Banking Turns Profit

BY ODDUR STURLUSON

A report released earlier this month by Javelin Strategy & Research states that if every household in the USA would stop receiving paper bills and statements, 687.000 tons of paper could be saved every year, which is enough to circle the world 239 times. The report examines green banking issues, including consumer habits, and recommendations for financial institutions seeking to attract environmentally conscious clients. The president of Javelin, James Van Dyke, points out that besides the obvious environmental benefits, banks can profit from green-banking both due to the lower cost of not printing statements, bills and so forth and also due to an influx of environmentally conscious consumers. Perhaps Icelandic banks looking to minimise expenditure for the recession should look to green-banking?

INTERVIEW BY SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON — PHOTO BY GAS



ICELANDIC ‘TORFKOFI’ – THE ULTIMATE IN OFF-GRID HOUSING.

Punk Rawk Your House

The a-b-c off living off-grid

You’re a good little greenie. You carry re-usable bags to Bonus to pick up your biological yogurt and Earth-friendly dish soap. You rock hemp cloth, don’t use hairspray and ride a bike with a bell that goes ring. You separate your glass from your plastic from your paper. You feel swell, like you’re making a difference, and in a small way you are. But is there something else you can do? Yup. You can just say fuck it all.

Off-Grid housing, or houses that rely on no utility services, is not really a new idea. Here, smack dab in the First World, it has been mostly the territory of survivalists, separatists and dirty hippie types. In the Developing World of course, it’s not really known as ‘off-grid’; it’s mostly known as ‘all we have.’ The past 15 years or so have seen a renaissance in ecological thought; a theory called Global Warming, which was once scoffed at, is now more or less universally accepted as a clear and present danger. As humans we are now beginning to recognise our role as stewards of the environment, to greater or lesser degrees. But the concept of abandoning the comforts that civilization has afforded itself – the ability to flush your waste away, to open the tap and get potable water – is intense. Why would you do such a thing? And how?

I’ll address the How. First, as of now, off-the-grid living is unfeasible in urban environments, barring some notable exceptions such as (surprise) San Francisco, California. City building codes most often require that structures meant for habitation must be hooked up to water, sewer, heat and electrical lines. This means a retreat to the countryside. Once you, legally, and if possible, secure your holding out in the boondocks you have a lot of options as far as construction materials and methods. Eco freaks from around the world have been doing their homework and most of their findings are on the Internet. However, unless you happen to be independently wealthy, prepare for the hard graft.

The actual make-up of your house is up to you and will depend on where you are building: stamped earth works well in dry hot climates but not so well in wet ones; reclaimed brick and stone are sturdy but will sink in wet land and hold moisture; and reclaimed wood is a dodgy idea under all circumstances. Somewhere, someone has used old tires, tin cans and bales of hay to build a home. The material you use is up to you, what is not are the three basics: water, heat and sanitation. The water problem can be handled as primitively as building next to a stream from which you will carry bucket after bucket every day, or drilling a well from which you will do the same. Heat can be created though the use of clever fireplace situations and ducting or putting up solar panels on your home in West Iceland and praying for the sun. As for sanitation, you can create a series of three reed ponds connected to your privy by drainage courses to filter and purify the waste. Or you can shit in a bucket, throw it out your window

and hope for the best.

Now, why? The answer to that is why not? Maybe you want to minimize your impact on God’s green Earth, that’s reason enough. Maybe you want to live you life entirely on your own terms, from what you eat, what you think, down to where and how you live. Maybe you enjoy hard labour and hate neighbours. Any of these reasons are fine. But maybe the best reason for giving the metaphorical finger to apartments with WI-FI hook-ups and video intercoms, parking spaces, Tuesday morning garbage collection, hot showers and cold tap water is simply the sheer joy you get from doing something yourself. 🇮🇸

OFF-GRID HOUSING, OR HOUSES THAT RELY ON NO UTILITY SERVICES, IS NOT REALLY A NEW IDEA. HERE, SMACK DAB IN THE FIRST WORLD, IT HAS BEEN MOSTLY THE TERRITORY OF SURVIVALISTS, SEPARATISTS AND DIRTY HIPPIE TYPES. IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD OF COURSE, IT’S NOT REALLY KNOWN AS ‘OFF-GRID’; IT’S MOSTLY KNOWN AS ‘ALL WE HAVE.’



REYKJAVÍK'S LARGEST SHOPPING CENTRE

In **Kringlan** you will discover more than 150 quality shops, varied restaurants and diverse services such as banks and a multiplex cinema. Kringlan offers a variety of international brands, including Boss, Karen Millen, Zara, Sand, Marc O'Polo, Oasis, Vero Moda, Topshop and many more, as well as 66°North and Icelandic designs and souvenirs.

For your convenience, you can claim your **tax-free** cash refund at our service desk and reclaim up to 15% of the VAT.

Kringlan is only 5 minutes from the city centre by car or bus.

Kringlan

Mon. to Wed. 10-18.30, Thursday 10-21, Friday 10-19, Saturday 10-18, Sunday 13-18

www.kringlan.is

Dreamland

A Self-help Manual to a Frightened Nation

EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK

In 2006, Andri Snær Magnason’s Dreamland – A Self-help Manual to a Frightened Nation became a number one bestseller in Iceland. The book was described as a wake-up call for a nation that was on the verge of forgoing its self-reliance in exchange for short-term interests in heavy industry. (See interview on page 16).

The book, directly or indirectly spawned the organization Framtíðarlandið – The Land of the Future – which has become a powerful bipartisan pressure group fighting for a preservation of Icelandic nature and independence from heavy industry.

The Dreamland is now available in English translation, and a movie adaptation is now in the final stages of editing. Here is an excerpt from the book, published for your enjoyment.

THE SEARCH FOR REALITY

I was in a taxi the other day and the driver wanted to talk. ‘Wasn’t it you that wrote that piece in the paper yesterday?’ he asked. ‘Could be,’ I said. ‘Yeah, well,’ he said. ‘You were going on about some places up in the highlands that are supposed to be under threat and you were encouraging us to go there before it’s too late.’ ‘That fits,’ I answered. ‘OK, you writers can write, maybe, but you’re just not in touch with reality. Where are we supposed to get the money to go travelling? Do you want us back living in turf cottages again?’ ‘There weren’t any turf cottages in the article,’ I said. ‘What are we actually supposed to live on? Where do we end up if people completely turn their back on progress?’ he asked. ‘We can’t all be writers, can we?’ ‘No,’ I answered, ‘I suppose not.’ ‘We can’t all go to university, can we? We can’t all live off selling each another stocks and shares or psychoanalyzing one other!’ ‘Maybe not,’ I said, but I couldn’t seem to come up with any particularly compelling reply. ‘We have to have something to live off! We need real jobs! How are we expected to live here when there’s no one left except psychologsupposed to live on? Where do we end up if people completely turn their back on progress?’ he asked. ‘We can’t all be writers, can we?’ ‘No,’ I answered, ‘I suppose not.’ ‘We can’t all go to university, can we? We can’t all live off selling each another stocks and shares or psychoanalyzing one other!’ ‘Maybe not,’ I said, but I couldn’t seem to come up with any particularly compelling reply. ‘We have to have something to live off! We need real jobs! How are we expected to live here when there’s no one left except psychologists and stockbrokers? What are all these people supposed to do? What are we supposed to live on when no one wants to work in the fish?’ ‘People are bound to create opportunities for themselves if they study what they’re interested in,’ I muttered and tried to sound convincing. The taxi driver shook his head. ‘Yes, and be like my cousin who went to Denmark to learn design!’ ‘For instance,’ I said. ‘Can you live off design? How are people supposed to get the money to buy all this design? What’s everybody supposed to live off? You people are out of all touch with reality. You need to get real!’

So when I got out of the taxi I had a look around me to see if I could see reality and came to the conclusion that no one I know does anything that is real. No one in my household comes anywhere near reality, no one next door, no one in the family, none of my friends. There are people in computers, marketing, advertising, languages. There are stockbrokers, artists, photographers, students, kids and old age pensioners, journalists, economists, pilots, psychologists, air hostesses, ministers of the church, architects, teachers and accountants. I have one childhood friend who sells fizzy drinks, another who gets people to watch more television. That hardly counts as ‘real’. An engineer with the telephone company. Is that reality? Icelandic teenagers send text messages for fifty million dollars a year. A real need? For that you could buy a year’s supply of flour for the whole of Iceland. Give us this year our yearly bread, literally.

My family is made up almost entirely of doctors and nurses. Yes, fair enough, they are dealing with real problems and there’s a bright future for people like them. In Living Science my eyes hit on the words, ‘In the future it will be the healthy people that take the drugs.’ It was an interesting piece about the so-called Barbie pill that makes people slim, makes their skin go brown and increases the libido. What could be better? Slim, tanned, and up for it.

My grandfather came presumably from the last generation that was born into absolute reality. His family had a clear overview of all aspects of its life and every single minute was spent in direct contact with reality. The family caught fish, collected down, burned driftwood, milked cows and herded sheep. Food was life and in a house of 1400 square feet there were twenty to thirty people, because the land yielded enough food for precisely this number. Everything was cut and dried. One sheep was a month and a bit of human survival next winter. His brother took over the farm. He bought himself a tractor and produced ten times as much food as had ever been produced there since the dawn of time. His machines cut the grass, brought in the hay and dug the ditches. ‘Ha ha!’ he cried. ‘Plenty of food for everybody! A hundred litres of milk a day!’ But his voice echoed hollowly around the house. Everyone had moved away. What did it mean? Ten times more reality, ten times fewer people.

At one time people feared that machines would steal their jobs and put us all out of work. For some, the machines seemed to promise a life of endless leisure: they would see to the fishing and haymaking, feeding the animals, milking, filleting the fish and heating the houses, carrying the water and wringing out the washing. But strange to relate, rather than technological progress creating contented unemployment, allowing us to lie in bed and take it easy while the waterworks pumps and the heating utility heats and the trawling machine scoops up the catch and brings it back to land, no sooner has unemployment reached 3 per cent than the papers are full of shock!horror! headlines:

“RECESSION! CRISIS!”

‘Downturn’, ‘recession’, ‘crisis’ – these are charged words. They mean different things to different people. Are we talking about a crisis like the one when granny, at the tender age of eight, was forced to leave the family home in their little fishing port

out on the east coast? Or does it count as a crisis when someone has to cancel his subscription for cable TV? Or when there’s an overtime shortage and people have the time to meet their friends and the energy to read their children a bedtime story? Or can you call it a crisis when people don’t actually notice any change in their own circumstances, for all that the papers tell them that some Central Bank indicator is showing down instead of up.

Last year my domestic electricity bills came to 400 dollars. For lighting, cooking, the washing machine, vacuum cleaner, computer and television, to name but a few. The phone bills were something over 2500 dollars, and that was before I got broadband. The crisis will have to cut pretty deep before it has any effect on anything that really matters.

‘You writers are out of touch with reality,’ said the taxi driver. Maybe to some extent he was right. But the truth is that the reality has been stolen from us. The machines stole it. Every day a new machine turns up to take away yet another slice of reality. And every day another machine appears that has no connection with reality whatsoever.

We can try to turn back. This summer I made an honest attempt to feed myself from what I could catch. I stood on the banks of Iceland’s most renowned salmon river, Laxá in Aðaldalur, for four days and came back with one lousy sea trout. Aðaldalur in fact operates a ‘catch and return’ policy when it comes to salmon. I had to sell a hundred and fifty books of poetry to cover the fishing permit, or the same price as 200 kilos of filleted haddock.

‘You can’t live off design,’ said the driver. So I decided to discard everything ‘you can’t live off’. I had a look around me and cut out all the fashion clothing, all films, all music, all theatre and the internet. I jettisoned football, travel and religion. I emptied out Benidorm, Disneyland and Las Vegas: people don’t live off tinsel like that. Coffee is a luxury, completely surplus to requirements, despite its being by far the biggest trading commodity in the world today after oil. Whole continents, whole millions of people, live off other people’s desire to drink the stuff! What kind of a reality is that? Alcohol, entirely expendable, let alone poetry or taxis. Having pared away everything unneeded from society, I was left with the following:

- One 20 foot container/tent
- running water
- 100 kilos of fishmeal
- 100 kilos of flour
- two sheep
- one sleeping bag
- one thermally insulated skisuit
- silence

Reality – that’s about the size of it



www.flybus.is

**ENJOY YOUR TRIP
WITH FLYBUS**

*The Flybus airport shuttle
will take you from Keflavik
International Airport to
Reykjavik city and vice versa.
The Flybus is connected to all
arriving and departing flights
at Keflavik airport.*

Seats are always guaranteed.

WE'LL TAKE YOU THERE!

ALL THE MOST EXCITING PLACES IN ICELAND



**RE-04
Golden Circle**

Don't miss out on the fascinating experience the Icelandic Golden Circle gives you. On this tour we take you to the geysers, the famous Gullfoss waterfall along with a visit to Þingvellir National Park. This tour is a must to make your visit to Iceland complete.

BOOK YOUR DAY TOURS ON OUR
WEBSITE / www.re.is



Blue Lagoon Express

A peaceful time in the Blue Lagoon is the perfect start or end to your holiday in Iceland. We offer many trips a day and you can either go straight to the airport or go back to Reykjavik. So take a dip in the Blue Lagoon and feel rejuvenated afterwards.

BOOK YOUR DAY TOURS ON OUR
WEBSITE / www.re.is



**RE-80
Glacier Adventure**

Want to add some excitement to your visit to Iceland? What about snowmobiling on a glacier with a wonderful view over the south coast! This tour will combine your need for an adrenalin rush with the Icelandic landscape.

BOOK YOUR DAY TOURS ON OUR
WEBSITE / www.re.is



**RE-05
Reykjavík Grand
Excursion**

Get to know the capital with an expert by your side. We take you around Reykjavik with a guide and show you the highlights of the city. The tour ends at the National Museum of Iceland where you can see Icelandic culture at its best.

BOOK YOUR DAY TOURS ON OUR
WEBSITE / www.re.is



**RE-81
Take a Walk on
the Ice Side**

Want to see and feel something completely different? Why not take a walk on a glacier and experience a surface that you have never been able to walk on before! Take a tour with us and try something new - a once in a lifetime experience for most.

BOOK YOUR DAY TOURS ON OUR
WEBSITE / www.re.is



**RE-24
Gullfoss and Geysir
Direct**

If you want to spend your afternoon in the countryside join this tour with us and we will show you two of Iceland's most famous attractions – Gullfoss and the geysers. Make sure you don't miss out on this one.

BOOK YOUR DAY TOURS ON OUR
WEBSITE / www.re.is



**RE-08
Saga Circle**

This tour is perfect for all Saga enthusiast. On this tour we take you around the area where one of the Icelandic Sagas took place - along with enjoying spectacular landscape. Come and follow the footsteps of the Vikings with us.

BOOK YOUR DAY TOURS ON OUR
WEBSITE / www.re.is



**RE-15
South Shore
Adventure**

This tour takes you along the sandy coastline of the South with a taste of Icelandic nature. On this tour you breathe in the fresh air by a black beach just before seeing striking waterfalls that mesmerize you while gazing at them.

BOOK YOUR DAY TOURS ON OUR
WEBSITE / www.re.is



**Reykjavik
Excursions**
KYNNISFERÐIR

INTERVIEW

Enviro-ethics

BY SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON

Professor of philosophy Páll Skúla-son, former Dean of the University of Iceland, answers a few ques-tions on environmental ethics.

In 1990 you wrote an essay entitled “Ethics of Nature”, where you argue that looking at nature from an anthropocentric viewpoint is unethical, and that man’s rational abilities, the “ability to conquer the Earth,” places eth-ical obligations on us to think of the big pic-ture and make ethical decisions for the good of the whole when dealing with environmen-tal issues. Man, you say, is really subordinate to nature, not the other way around. Is this an accurate summary of the essay?

Yes, it is. I believe that we have the obligation to take into account the interests not only of human beings but of all living beings and of earth itself as the condition for and the system of all living organisms. The basic reason for this is that we are endowed with a capacity to think beyond our own limited condition and to consider how things may be seen from perspectives entirely different from our own. This capacity helps us to understand, to a certain extent at least, what is in the interest of other living beings and what makes the land or the environment a better place to live for different creatures.

Has your thinking on nature and the environ-ment changed since then?

It has evolved and I have come to think that re-ligious or even metaphysical questions may be more important than one might think when we are dealing with practical environmental issues. In my little book, Meditation at the Edge of Ask-ja, I try to remind us of these questions and how they affect our thinking. Perhaps our spiritual life consists in establishing a relationship with nature where we have to respect it both as a terrifying re-ality and as the fundamental premise of our lives. “Ethics of Nature” was more concerned with animal rights then environmental issues, but a lot of what you had to say could easily be applied to some of the environmental issues that are facing Icelandic society today, right?

Absolutely. That paper was originally a contribu-tion to a conference for veterinarians, but I tried to present the values and the attitudes which we need to take into account when we deal with en-vironmental issues of whatever kind. We have to realise that economic values require a certain way of thinking that is quite different from the way we think when we are preoccupied with a mental value like knowledge. And to think mor-ally implies applying moral values like justice, love and respect which constitute an ethical at-titude towards living beings and nature itself.

To what extent are the environmental issues we face today ethical, as opposed to techni-cal or even economical?

Formerly, it was much easier to regard environ-mental issues, such as pollution, simply as prob-lems to be solved by new technology. But now we have come to realise that what is required is a change in our life style and that means in our way of valuing what matters, how we organise our lives together, and, in short, how we think and behave towards nature. And this calls for a type of ethical thinking which is not easy at all.

One of the most obvious ethical dilemmas we face today from an environmental standpoint regards sustainable development, finite natu-ral resources and our duty to leave something behind for our descendents. In Iceland this is especially relevant when it comes to energy resources and fish stocks. How would you suggest that policy makers approach these is-sues from an ethical standpoint?

From an ethical standpoint the main task of policy makers is to engage the general public – with the help of the media – in a process of reflection and debate about environmental issues. Policy makers should also encourage teachers at all levels of the educational system to help raise awareness and knowledge among the young about the values at stake in our relations with nature. They should avoid as much as possible making decisions on environmental issues without deliberate consulta-tion with all those affected by the decisions. 🐼

INTERVIEW BY SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON — PHOTO BY KORMÁKUR MÁNI

Riding Reykjavík

A philosopher changes his ways

Róbert H. Haraldsson is a profes-sor of philosophy at the University of Iceland. Two years ago, Har-aldsson decided to change his hab-its and use a bicycle as his main mode of transportation instead of a car. Every morning, Haraldsson pedals his way from his home in suburban Garðabær to the Univer-sity of Iceland just outside Reyk-javík centre, 10.5 kilometres each leg. A Grapevine reporter asked Haraldsson a few questions to learn how this change has affected his life.

First off, was your decision influenced by en-vironmental reasons or health reasons?

I wanted to lose weight and get into shape, but I was very busy and was looking for an exercise I could integrate into my daily routine. My first choice would probably have been to walk to school but I told myself I didn’t have four hours a day to spare. That’s unfortunate. So I started cy-cling every day and I changed my diet. I think the environmental reasons where there at the back of my mind also but they were not the triggering cause like the fitness issue.

Was there an adjustment period?

I have always loved cycling but not always made time for it in my life. So I do not remember any spe-cial period of adjustment. But I do remember how incredibly tired I was after cycling from my home to school the first time. And I also remember the time when I had grown so used to cycling that it felt a little odd to go to work by car. It is strange but now I associate the car in the city with confine-ment, lack of freedom. If I go by car to work, which is very rare, I fear that I might hit a traffic jam, not make it on time etc. I can smell the anxiety on the city roads, the traffic, traffic lights, everyone is in a hurry. Speed makes you anxious.

There are persistent claims that the condi-tions in Iceland are very unfavourable to cy-



Philosopher Róbert Haraldsson.

clists. What does your experience tell you?

Almost all of what they say is a myth. Take the weather for example. It’s supposed to be too bad to cycle in Iceland: too windy, too much rain, too cold. People forget that for every “bad” day in Ice-land there are at least eight beautiful days when it is a pure delight to cycle to work. There have been many a calm winter day when I have arrived completely recharged and refreshed to work after riding in a wonderful weather through wonderful scenery. And the “bad” days are not bad, really. In the past two years I have only gotten into minor problems due to the weather three times, and that was because of snow. The city workers had not had the time to clear the bike paths properly. I had to carry my bike part of the way. But in my experi-ence they usually do a good job of keeping those paths clear. People talk about the storms. Last winter we had a lot of low pressure systems arriv-ing at our shores with frightful consistency, like commercial jets coming in for landing. But only once did they cause problems for me, and again only minor problems with a certain entertainment value to them. These problems are nothing com-pared to the problems motorists in Reykjavík have to deal with almost every day.

What can be done to improve the situation for cyclists and make the bicycle a more attrac-tive mode of transportation in Reykjavík?

Things are tolerably good as they are now. What needs to be done is to make people realise this: one can cycle to work on bike paths from most neighbourhoods in the greater Reykjavík area. Things have improved since I started cycling from Garðabær. But I am keenly aware that there is room for improvement, if, for example, you com-pare Reykjavik to Copenhagen. I would like to see more bike paths and less car pollution. It is going

to be difficult to reduce pollution in Reykjavík but maybe the gasoline prices will help here. I would like to see companies in Reykjavik do more for employees who cycle to work. Simple things like easily accessible showers, closets for clothes and indoor facilities to keep the bikes would make cycling more attractive to people, no doubt. A simple cost-benefit analysis should convince cor-porate executives to invest in these things for their employees.

Has this affected your family life at all? Does this make you exempt from all the mundane stuff around the home that is difficult to per-form on a bike, like dropping off the kids or picking up the groceries?

I still have a lot of work undone here. But I have been trying to turn this into a way of life for the whole family, with some success. I am for the most part an obedient husband and do what my wife tells me to do around the house. But she does more of the grocery shopping and dropping off the kids, although only one of the kids still needs dropping off. She could definitely have made this hard for me. But she hasn’t. 🐼

IN THE PAST TWO YEARS I HAVE ONLY GOTTEN INTO MINOR PROBLEMS DUE TO THE WEATHER THREE TIMES, AND THAT WAS BECAUSE OF SNOW.



INTERVIEW BY HAUKUR S. MAGNÚSSON

Re-envisioning Reykjavík’s Transit System

“See, in 1994 or 5, the city of Reykjavík had 430 cars for every thousand inhabitants. Today, there are over 700 cars for every thousand inhabitants. This means that instead of being like most Scan-dinavian and European cities we like to compare ourselves to, cities with beautiful and vibrant cen-tres, we’re becoming more like a US “car-city”. And this is bound to affect the quality of our life here in a negative way, it will colour the way we inter-act as citizens. It’s happened in many American cities that totally succumb to the automobile as sole means of transport and organise themselves around it.”

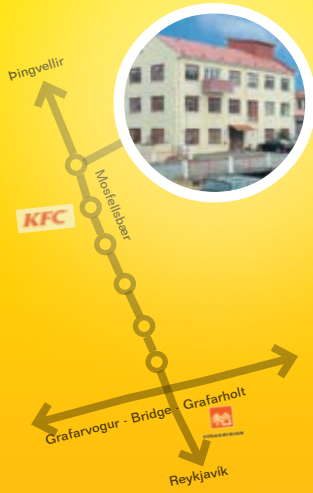
Reykjavík city councilman Gísli Marteinn Bal-dursson is answering the Grapevine’s question of how he would like to see Reykjavík’s transpor-tation system evolve in the next decade. He is doing this over the phone, as he is currently on a cycling

tour of France with his family. This is not surpris-ing, as he is an enthusiastic biker; in fact making cycling a viable alternative to motorised forms of transport has been a part of Baldursson’s agenda as head of the city’s Environmental and Transpor-tation council.

“We need to ensure that the conditions for al-ternative modes of transport, such as bicycle paths or the bus system, are attractive and maintained enough that car ownership becomes an option rather than a necessity. We do not want to be a “mall city” that’s castrated and devoid of character in every way. We want to make a lively and vibrant city atmosphere and correctly organising commut-ing and transportation is a big part of that. Less space is wasted on freeways and parking, pollu-tion is minimised and culture is enriched. And I’ve done the math: this way is cheaper for everyone in

the long run. Fortunately, there is a great unity over this vision in the city council so it should come to fruition soon.”

This year, Baldursson says the focus is on mak-ing cycling a more attractive means to travel. “What we are working on right now is a path that goes from the west side of town and all the way east, so that a person can easily bike to the university area from Breiðholt. We’re talking about a real transporta-tion vein that will have lights and will be ploughed if it’s snowing, just like any highway. Our end goal is to offer an infrastructure for cycling in Reykjavík that will make it an attractive choice for year-round transportation, a series of well maintained biking paths that will circle and cross the city for maxi-mum accessibility. Presently, 2% of every journey made in Reykjavik is on a bike, our long-term aim is to greatly multiply that number.” 🐼



Þingvellir
Mosfellsbær
KFC
Grafarvogur - Bridge - Grafarholt
Reykjavík


Álafoss - outlet
Álafossvegur 23
Mosfellsbær
(C.a 16 km away from
Reykjavík on the road
to Þingvellir)


Open:
Mondays - Fridays
9:00 - 18:00
Saturdays
9:00 - 16:00

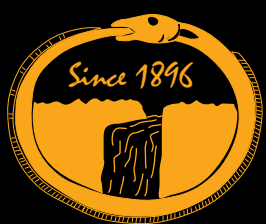
Álafoss
Laugavegur 1
Reykjavík - City Center

Open:
In summer:
Every day
9:00 - 22:00

In Winter:
Mondays - Fridays
10:00 - 18:00
Saturdays
10:00 - 14:00









ÁLAFOSS
Wool & Souvernir Shop


Take the warmth
with you!
www.alafoss.is






Design: Sjaldaur auga mms 2005 / Photo: Halgrímur Kristjánsson


www.postur.is





**SHARE THE EXPERIENCE
ALL YOU NEED**

POSTCARDS – MAILBOX – STAMPS



Iceland Post

Licensing and registration of travel-related services

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

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

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



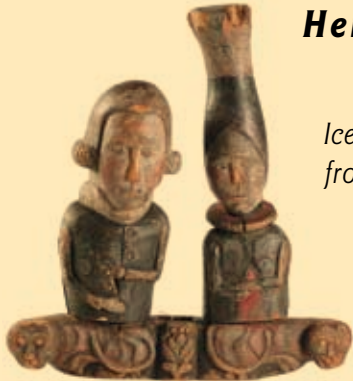
List of licenced Tour Operators and Travel Agencies on: visiticeland.com

Making of a Nation

Heritage and History in Iceland

Iceland's extraordinary history from settlement to present day

Guided tours in English daily 11:00



Opening hours:
Summer (May 1st - Sept. 15th): Daily 10-17.
Winter (Sept. 16th - Apr. 30th):
Daily 11-17 except Mondays.

ÞJÓÐMINJASAFN ÍSLANDS
National Museum of Iceland

National Museum of Iceland • Suðurgata 41 • 101 Reykjavík • Tel. 530 2200 • www.natmus.is



HOUSING BENEFITS

RENT BENEFITS

Housing benefits are intended for residents of Reykjavik as a financial aid to those who rent in the general market. Application service is provided at the city's 6 service centers and it's also possible to apply electronically through www.rafraen.reykjavik.is. Applicants shall have reach 18 years of age, hold a legal residence in Reykjavik and be able to show a signed rental contract that has been registered at the district magistrate.

For further information contact you nearest service center, either directly or through tel: 4 11 11 11.



City of Reykjavik
Department of welfare

Tryggvagata 17
101 Reykjavik
Tel: 411 9000
www.velferdarsvid.is

ARTICLE BY STEINUNN JAKOBSDÓTTIR — PHOTO BY GAS



THE ORGAN FASHION COLLECTIVE.

Organ Theme-market

A new weekend destination

WHERE

Organ, Hafnarstræti 1-3

WHEN

Friday and Saturday
from 14:00 – 19:00

Every Friday and Saturday this summer, a lively outdoor market will fill the port in front of bar/concert venue Organ in Hafnarstræti. The market is open from 14:00 to 19:00 and the concept is to emphasise on different themes every weekend. Themes range from music and art to fashion designs and accessories, just about whatever the supervisors Gígja Ísis and Hanna Kristín, can think of. "We wanted to have different themes and then organise events related to the theme each week" says Gígja. The opening weekend's junk market attracted a large crowd of shoppers eager to stock up on some cheap items, listen to live music and breathe in the creative atmosphere. "We had a hairdresser who cut people's hair for example. The plan is to combine the street market and various fun happenings, performances, fashion shows and live music," she adds.

This weekend, June 20 and 21, the focus will be on music. Old records and new releases by local bands and all sorts of music related stuff will be available for enthusiastic shoppers

who will have plenty of opportunities to find good bargains. "Kimono has for example booked a stall where the band members plan to sell their music as well as old instruments and music equipment. Then we'll of course have some big concert," explains Gígja and adds that the following weekend is already fully booked. That time the theme is young artists and designers so shoppers can expect a nice selection of design products, clothes and one-off art pieces. After scanning the stalls, music-nerds and amateurs can show off their knowledge by participating in the weekly Pop-Quiz, starting at 18:00 every Friday at Organ. If all this isn't enough, the outside grill is open for everyone hungry for a BBQ and the bartenders will gladly mix up your favourite beverage.

Anyone interested can rent a stall for 7,000 ISK for the two days. For more info on upcoming themes see: www.myspace.com/organmarket or contact the supervisors at organ-thememarket@gmail.com.

ARTICLE BY STEINUNN JAKOBSDÓTTIR

Buy Icelandic Design Online

And look cool to all your friends

To make Icelandic design more accessible to worldwide shoppers, two local pioneers with an eye for quality products, Kjartan Sturluson and Ingvi Þór Guðmundsson, recently opened a new design store on the Internet. The store is entitled Birkiland and stocks a nice selection of Icelandic designs, including various accessories, organic toys, decorative items for the home and books on architecture, food and photography. A great variety of cool gift items as a 'virtue blanket,' Tim Burton inspired jewellery hangers, Volcanic Ash Notepads and Rose-patterned food cutters are for sale and, as the site evolves, fresh new items will be added to the store. The site also includes useful information about the designers and their products.

The reason for opening the website they say is the enormous growth they've seen in Icelandic design in recent years, with new designers gaining attention locally and internationally. To meet the increased interest, the webstore was established to be a platform for designers who can present and sell their products and in the meantime promote Icelandic design around the world.

Today, 15 designers sell their products on Birkiland, both

new graduates as well as prominent designers with years of experience in the business. Asked how they are selected, Ingvi Þór replies that it is partly a matter of taste but that they choose carefully what they think suits the store. "We want to offer cutting-edge designs and include young designers. We plan to add more names to the list and activate graphic designers and fashion designers as well. Now we are studying the market and looking at the grassroots," he says. "We get lots of visits each day and numerous blogs around the world have written about the store. That's of course the best advertisement you get."

Offering Icelandic design on the web isn't their only goal as the plan is to operate short-term stores that offer Icelandic designs, exhibitions and events. "The stores will move around and only be open for a week or maybe just over one weekend. We plan to start this in July, maybe on Laugavegur, but an exact location hasn't been decided yet," Ingvi Þór explains. With this new business, those interested in designs can have easy access to the Icelandic creativity wherever they are in the world. Check out the selection at www.birkiland.is.





THE LATE VIEW

Photographs from the legacy of Nobel Laureate in Literature and cosmopolitan Halldór Laxness (1902 – 1998)

On view are Halldór Laxness' private photographs, a visual testimony of a life that spanned the 20th century and entailed family life, political life and a career as a novelist.



MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS – EDDAS AND SAGAS - The ancient vellums on display



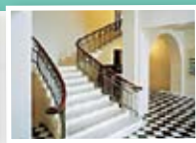
SURTSEY – GENESIS - Multimedia exhibition on a new volcanic island



**EXHIBITIONS - GUIDED TOURS
CAFETERIA - CULTURE SHOP**

The Culture House – Þjóðmenningarhúsið
National Centre for Cultural Heritage
Hverfisgata 15 • 101 Reykjavík (City Centre)
Tel: 545 1400 • www.thjodmenning.is

Open daily between 11 am and 5 pm
Free guided tour of THE MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS
exhibition Mon and Fri at 3:30 pm, also Tue and
Thur, June - August.





The Machine is Deaf

Author Andri Snær and

WHO:
Björk Guðmundsdóttir

BORN:
Reykjavík, November 21, 1965

OCCUPATION:
Musician

DISCOGRAPHY:
Volta (2007)
Medúlla (2004)
Vespertine (2001)
Homogenic (1997)
Post (1995)
Debut (1992)

WHO:
Andri Snær Magnason

BORN:
Reykjavík, July 14, 1973

OCCUPATION:
Author

WHAT:
Dreamland
— A Self-Help Manual for a
Frightened Nation (2006)
Lovestar (2002)
The Blue Planet (1999)

June 17, 1944, the greatest minds in Iceland convened on the banks of Lake Þingvallavatn to declare independence. From this day on, this nation should be a sovereign state, free from the tyranny of its Danish masters. June 13, 2008, mere days before the nation celebrated 64 years of independence, two great minds met on the banks of Lake Þingvallavatn to discuss their own declaration of independence and how to free this nation from the tyranny of its aluminium masters.

THE GRAPEVINE: First, tell me a little about how this is all connected: the concert, Andri’s book release and his upcoming film release. Is there more? How did this come together?

BJÖRK: It was really just a coincidence. But with this, like so much else that has to do with this issue, people are very upset. I’ve never been a part of anything like this before, and I never really thought I would. But there is just so much at stake here. After I played the Hætta! concert, [a festival against the destruction of Icelandic nature in January 2006] I decided to pull back a bit. My experience is that I should not be doing a hundred things at the same time, but rather just focus on doing three things and take them all the way. Also, I thought I would just do more good that way. But now, there was little slump, so I decided to just raise as much hell as possible. There were still people around who hadn’t given up entirely, and I started talking to them, and that’s when I met Andri. His book was just about to be released in English translation, and the movie was just about to be ready, it just seemed that a lot of people were thinking along the same lines all of a sudden.

ANDRI: Some people think that many different organisations mean disunion. But all these people are heading in the same direction. You could compare this with kiosk owners in Iceland. There is no disunion among kiosk owners, even if they are not in one organisation. This movement is spread out, mainly because there is no money involved; people are just working on their own terms. People often work better like that, focusing on single projects and finishing them. Sometimes people burn out completely and need to take a break, but they usually come back. Much like Björk, I have never been a part of a political organisation. I recently spoke to an American woman, a poet, who has been very active in protesting the war in Iraq, and she said: “I so look forward to when Obama becomes president, because then I can start writing poetry again.” When things like this happen, ordinary people are forced to take a certain responsibility, to adopt a cause, even if you are not necessarily used to it.

BJÖRK: All these people in Iceland who care about nature, they have different opinions amongst themselves. To me, this is very much like how Bad Taste [the label established by The Sugarcubes in the 80s] operates. Everyone can bring in an idea and put it in action, and the others will support it, nobody is asked “how do you

like this album?” If a member of Bad Taste wants to do it, the others will help. There is nothing democratic about it. This movement operates very much in the same way. If anyone has an idea, she can put it to action and the others will help out.

ANDRI: This is like a magnifying glass. There is a lot of energy available in the people, but right now it is spread out. The concert will serve like a burning glass. It will concentrate all that energy into one moment. There are hundreds of people who work full-time to make Iceland the biggest aluminium smelter in the world. Every day they show up for work and keep on doing what they are doing and when there is a little wave of protest, they just wait for it to

GREEN ENERGY AMOUNTS TO ABOUT 5% IN THE EUROPEAN MARKET. THERE ARE MANY COMPANIES IN EUROPE THAT ARE WILLING TO PAY PREMIUM PRICES FOR GREEN ENERGY. WE ARE RUINING ICELAND’S IMAGE AS A GREEN COUNTRY.

run out and then they start again. But the machine is deaf. Even if people are protesting, the machine is deaf and it doesn’t hear them. People imagine that in a democratic society like this one, it is enough to write well-formulated and logical articles and partake in a democratic debate to change things. But it doesn’t seem to matter what you say. The voices of ordinary citizens are not heard.

BJÖRK: I think the atmosphere is also very different from what it was when we did Hætta! concert in ’06, especially among young people, and outside of Reykjavík. At first, people thought they had no influence; this thing would go through, no matter what they thought. But now I think, and that is what makes me especially excited for this concert, there is an awakening. I’m not exactly excited to push my own opinions and have people agree with me, I’m excited that people want to be heard. I’m excited to hear from people outside Reykjavík, people who live in Húsavík, and other places where projects are being planned. These people have not had a strong voice in the media.

ANDRI: This is something that Björk has really put in perspective, because she has been around the world to “declare independence,” but there is something that happens when people are offered an oil refinery or an aluminium smelter, when people are offered the big solution and they anticipate billions coming in to the economy in

the next three to four decades. It’s difficult to anticipate that in your lifetime, so people miss opportunities. That opportunity becomes a burden to the nation that they put themselves into nothing else available. Independence. I’ve led to believe that our very existence is at stake. **THE GRAPEVINE:** achieve?

BJÖRK: Me, people live with dams like that, wrong is that wrong. I came up with a big contract, I’ve advertisement, I’ve independence. I’ve why I am still m believe that we with Alcoa,” but them, but instead something of it from the a “made in Iceland” production. I think that of all the people if it had been that a innovative state the profits for oil in Iceland, I think Kárahnjúkar would **THE GRAPEVINE:** pendent?

BJÖRK: It is not an environment of Iceland that is Kárahnjúkar. But be a colony. We’re ing us, then we have army left. It is like first steps are already we do next? What people have to do fifty years or what thing about. I have



Björk are fighting a battle to keep Iceland independent. And preserve its nature.

For four years, for them, that's a lifetime. Usually, it is to anticipate the next six months, but three years, that's a long time to become blinded to their own capabilities and to stop asking what they can do, and every opportunity becomes a threat to the Big Solution. You need to prove that you really need the Big Solution, so people talk about complete hopelessness, to the level where there is no available option in the situation. It becomes a battle of wills. It is absurd. This idea of independence... we are not at our health-care system, our education system, our economy, is thanks to aluminium.

NE: What is your goal? What is it that you want to

Personally, I am not absolutely against dams. I could be like Sigalda and the old smaller dams, what rubs me wrong is we are doing it in the service of these big corporations through the grassroots, and I've never signed a contract. I've been offered a five-years salary for doing a car but I have always said no and maintained my own independence. This is where I am coming from, and I think that is why I am making music today. I have total creative freedom. I should stop thinking: "Let's do so much awesome things, rather just do one third of what we have done with it and do it all by ourselves, own it ourselves, and make it ourselves. If it is aluminium, we should make some aluminium here in Iceland, and put a stamp on it: 'Made in Iceland,'" and sell it, rather than just be a stop for primary aluminium, and think it so important that we own ourselves. I think the people who opposed the Kárahnjúkar dam project, were three times smaller, made by Icelanders – if this was a dam set-up by Icelanders – and we would maintain all the energy ourselves and make our own product from it here in Iceland. I think probably half of the people who were against the dam would have been of another opinion.

NE: So for you, this is just a matter of being inde-

pendent, just a matter of being independent, because I am a nationalist as well. But I think there is a certain percent of people who are possible to dam, without going to the excesses of nationalism. I do think it is important. We always continue to say that we've been brainwashed, first we had the Danes ruling over us, then the US Army and there was this panic when the Danes said people can't make independent decisions. The Danes were always scary for a grassroots operation. What should we do? What is good for me? Or my village? My country? But I think we should stay the course for those first difficult ten years or so. I think that it becomes. This is something I feel I know some-thing. I have been a part of grassroots operation from the

start of my career, and I was a broke single mother, but I never sold out. I stayed the course for ten years, selling books house to house to make a living. I did everything on my own terms, and I think that is the most important thing.

ANDRI: Think about it this way. What if we had never started to fish cod, and now we were waiting for Alcoa or some other company to come here and hire 40 strong men to fish cod? I mean, we built this fishing industry on our own terms. I am not saying we should isolate ourselves from the rest of the world. It is entirely natural that foreign companies operate and invest in Iceland, but when a company is here on its own terms to utilise our natural resources,

MY THEORY IS THAT IF YOU ARE STRONG, SECURE AND INDEPENDENT, THEN YOU ARE MUCH MORE QUALIFIED TO BE IN COOPERATION. THEN YOU ARE IN COOPERATION ON EQUAL GROUNDS. IF YOU ARE STRONG, SECURE AND INDEPENDENT, YOU CAN COOPERATE WITH ALIENS AND STILL BE VERY ICELANDIC.



instead of being here on our terms, it becomes a very unhealthy pattern. If Alcoa owns two smelters, one in the east, and one in the north, they are using all the available energy in the east and all the available energy in north, and if they need more energy, we are not really in a position to say no to them. We are not getting that much for our energy that we are really free. We are paying off these dams for 40 years, while Alcoa is paying off their smelters in five years. They are free in five years. We are always in a situation of need.

BJÖRK: We need to rid ourselves of this feeling of inferiority. This feeling that we are not as good as people in other countries. We are on our knees. That means we are in a very unhealthy and abusive co-operation with these companies. My theory is that if you are strong, secure and independent, then you are much more qualified to be in cooperation. Then you are in cooperation on equal grounds. If you are strong, secure and independent, you can cooperate with aliens and still be very Icelandic. When you are insecure and desperate... the same rules apply in a relationship between nations and corporations as between two friends.

ANDRI: To dam or not to dam is also a question of proportion. In the last hundred years we have harnessed an x amount of energy. In the last three years, we have doubled that number. In the next three years they want to redouble it. Everything moves at 200 kph. The excess is too much. We are not allowed to slow down. If someone asks them to slow down to 150 kph, that person is a fanatic. It is the proportions that people don't understand and it has never been explained. Around Húsavík, there is available energy to serve one million people. It would be possible to go into a geothermal area and even build energy plants underground that would look like a hot spring from the surface. This is possible, but there is no time for that. In one phase they have to make enough energy to serve all of Reykjavík. But that is still not enough, so they have to go into another area to get enough energy to serve Reykjavík again, but that is still not enough, so they have to go into Gjástykk, to get a little more, because the aluminium smelter needs so much energy. Then they want to handcuff themselves to this smelter that always has the upper hand, for the next forty years. The ownership of these smelters is very uncertain. We might wake up one day to find out that the same company owns five aluminium smelters here in Iceland. In the meantime, people have been fed words like 'export revenue' and led to believe that everything we have is thanks to aluminium instead of the other way around. People don't realise that Alcoa saves 20 billions a year in energy expenditures by closing down a factory somewhere else and building a new one here.

BJÖRK: The world is standing at a crossroad with the future of energy right now. To nail all our energy down to aluminium smelters right now is ridiculous. Why should we not be a part of this change? Why should we not be a part of the innovation? We should discover something new. I am not just thinking about saving nature now. If I were a businessman I would be thinking forward, towards the future. I think there would more money in that.

ANDRI: Green energy amounts to about 5% in the European market. There are many companies in Europe that are willing to pay premium prices for green energy. We are ruining Iceland's image as a green country. Our best option would be to sell green energy to less energy-sensitive companies – something like 10 megawatts – that desire a green image, and sell the energy at a normal price instead of selling at cut-rate prices. That would more than make up the difference.


BJÖRK: Yes, there are other options besides aluminium smelters. These are exciting times. It is great that we have not managed to totally fuck up this country yet, and we are standing at a crossroad right now. We could just jump right into the 21st century and be a part of the solution. What we need more than anything is information. And that is my goal with this concert. 🇮🇸

ARTICLE BY NATHANIEL FLAGG

June 17

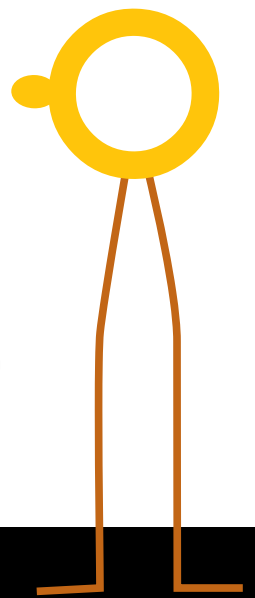
PHOTOS BY GAS

As a foreigner covering June 17th, I came with the intent of truly finding the holiday. What was its core? Where did its spirit lie? With hot dog in hand, I set off on my hunt, which soon degenerated into aimless wandering. I drifted from sight to sight, happening upon a juggler from Canada, four men pulling a cement mixer down the street and a performance by an Arabian dance company. While feeding the ducks with the bun from a second hot dog, I decided I couldn't be there yet. There had to be more to the 17th of June than disinterested browsing.

It wasn't until I reached the far end of the lake when I found it. The skyline swelled with inflatable castles and slides, and lines twisted out of hot dog and waffle booths. I came across clowns, puppet shows, mini golf, acrobats, and throngs of children and parents. Bam! Children. What could be a finer way to spend an afternoon than with your parents, getting delicious treats and glimpsing fantastic spectacles on a tour of paradise? How poignant that a patriotic anniversary of a nation's independence would come to celebrate innocence! I'd found the holiday at last - now if only I was 15 years younger. 



Breakfast special



Cappuccino + bagel + yoghurt = Kr. 690

roma

Rauðarárstígur 8



Energy for life through forces of nature

www.bluelagoon.com

BLUE LAGOON
ICELAND



Frístundir Ísland has designed a website to facilitate the process of seeking activities, courses and special events for young children through to teenagers. Companies offering such activities can now be located in one central location.

A free booklet published three times per year will also be available to parents, schools, tourists offices and end-users. The booklet will be published in Icelandic, English and Polish. The first booklet will be available from 1st September 2008. As a new service provider our aim is to provide the best possible service and welcome your comments via our website www.fristundir.is.

Frístundir Ísland hefur hannað vefsíðu til að auðvelda leitina að námskeiðum og þar til gerðum atvörðum fyrir börn og unglinga. Nú er hægt að nálgast allar upplýsingar um þau fyrirtæki sem bjóða upp á slíka starfsemi á einum stað.

Ókeypis bæklingur verður útbúinn ókeypis sinnur á ári fyrir foreldra, börn og erlenda ferðamenn. Bæklingnum verður dreift í skóla og á skrifstofur. Hann verður prentaður á íslensku, ensku og pólsku. Fyrsti bæklingurinn verður tilbúinn 1. september 2008. Sem nýtt fyrirtæki viljum við bjóða upp á bestu mögulegu þjónustu og tökum á móti fyrirspurnum og ábendingum í gegn um heimasíðu okkar www.fristundir.is.



Frístundir Ísland
Frístundir Ísland ehf | Sími 588 6017
Hringbraut 121, 4.h., 107 Reykjavík

www.fristundir.is



THE LOBSTER HOUSE HUMARHÚSIÐ

The Lobster house takes pride in giving you the best, with top-class cuisine and highly praised service.

Our menu consists of a variety of meat and fish dishes, and lobster is our speciality.



HUMARHÚSIÐ
Amtmannsstíg 1 / 101 Reykjavík / Tel: +354 561 3303
www.humarhusid@humarhusid.is

ARTICLE BY NATHANIEL FLAGG — PHOTO BY CHARLIE STRAND



PRESIDENT BONGO FROM GUSGUS AND THE COVER OF PROJECT: ICELAND

Documenting Icelandic Culture

A new book on arts and culture in the nation's capital

After two years in the making, Project: Iceland, a new book by the English fashion and music photographer Charlie Strand, featuring the cutting-edge in Icelandic music, art and fashion today has finally been released. The book includes interviews and detailed bios of fifty artists with full-colour photos of the artists and their work as well as a 16-track audio CD.

"It's very much about promoting the artists," said Strand "Iceland has so much new talent these days, I think it deserves it... I came here and I was so amazed. It just begged to be made." With the book scheduled for worldwide release later this month, the international community can find a better opportunity to discover the creative force Iceland is fast becoming. The book covers familiar giants such as Sigur Rós, múm, Helicopter and Riceboy Sleeps as well as younger artists yet on the rise. No matter what their successes, they can all celebrate a newfound global attention in their inclusion in this book.

This is not to say that every important creative figure in Iceland is here. The book focuses on artists whose work

manages to remain exciting and stirring in print. "It's definitely been curated," says Strand. "I chose these artists based on sort of a dynamism, a readiness to almost jump off the page, they really grab your attention. Not everyone is here, by any means."

Strand, trained as a stylist in London, came upon photography in documentation of his own works, and quickly moved beyond his education into the world of fashion and music photography. This is the first book of his work. "No one is going to give a damn about the next one," Strand jokes, "But people have been so supportive. It's great."

The book, though created by Strand as well as featuring many of his photographs, is a collaborative effort of many photographers, designers and artists, representing several years worth of hard work and research. "It's been stressful, but I think we're all proud of how it came out."

The book is available in major bookstores throughout Reykjavik for 4.990 ISK, and its release in Europe, Asia and Australia is scheduled later this month. The US release is scheduled in August. 🇮🇸

ARTICLE BY ODDUR STURLUSON

Airwaves 2008

Contrary to rumours and speculation, Mr. Destiny has confirmed that the tenth annual Iceland Airwaves music festival will be held this fall starting on Wednesday October 15 and finishing the following Sunday. In the last few weeks a number of employees have left the company including Eldar Ástþórsson, manager of the last three Airwaves festivals. This has sparked a hot media debate about the company's ownership of Airwaves, the financial problems it faces and the laughable grant the city provides. Iceland Airwaves will now be managed by a subsidiary of Mr. Destiny.

Foreign bands announced for this year: Junior Boys, CSS (Cansei de Ser Sexy), Dirty Projectors, Final Fantasy, Yelle, Planningrorock, Young Guns, White Lies, Therese Aune, Stars Like Fleas, Miracle Fortress, Florence and the machine, Robots in disguise, PNAU, Familjen, Handsome Furs, Simian Mobile Disco, Crystal Castles, Jerry Bouthier and These New Puritans.

Icelandic bands announced for this year: GusGus, Skakkamannage, Seabear, Retro Stefson, Dikta, Hjaltalín, Reykjavík!, FM Belfast, Sprengjuhöllina, Dr. Spock, Dýrðina, Borko, Steed Lord, Glutus Maximus and Ghostigital. 🇮🇸

ARTICLE BY NATHANIEL FLAGG

Útúrdúr

A different kind of book store

A new gem has appeared on Njálsgata 14. The new art bookstore and publishing house Útúrdúr continues to attract attention despite its square footage and discreet location. Last Sunday, Útúrdúr sponsored a small party with browsing encouraged and music supplied by local idiosyncratic indie pop collective Benni Hemm Hemm. Útúrdúr stocks a quaint selection of art books featuring the work of both local and international artists, a collection that changes from week to week in a constant effort to supply the freshest and best work out there. Occupying a total of three rooms plus a back garden, Útúrdúr has a real reading room feel. Books and magazines are neatly strewn around the place, each one begging to be read. Only a few books are kept out at a time, but once they are snapped up, they are quickly replaced by new and exciting material. Útúrdúr is a special little shop with quality items and a quality setting for them. An exciting new location in town, just waiting to be explored. 🇮🇸

TRADITIONAL ICELANDIC FOOD and International Dishes



Our Weekly Menu:

MONDAYS:

Minced steak w. onions
Lamb cutlets
Fishballs

TUESDAYS:

Gratinated fish
Lamb cutlets
Meatballs

WEDNESDAYS:

Salted lamb & pea soup
Lamb cutlets

THURSDAYS:

Lamb meat & broth
Lamb cutlets

FRIDAYS:

Lamb chops
Lamb cutlets

SATURDAYS:

Fried fish fillets
Lamb cutlets
Roast pork

SUNDAYS:

Roast pork
Lamb cutlets

Homelike food
International buffet
Grilled chicken
Sheep's head and Coke
Fish dishes
Hamburgers
Salat bar
Sandwich bar
Coffee and cakes



FLJÓTT OG GOTT



BSI BUS TERMINAL
HRINGBRAUT, REYKJAVÍK
RESTAURANT OPEN 7-23.30 AND TAKE AWAY
ROUND THE CLOCK



Grand LUNCH

Lunchbuffet each weekday.
BBQ grill with good weather.

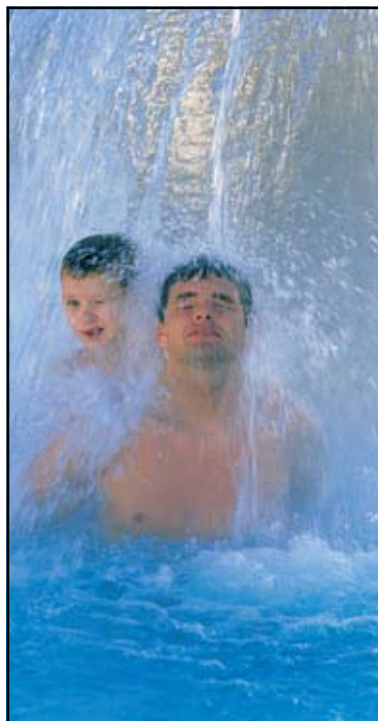
Make the most of the Icelandic summer
and enjoy freshly grilled food outdoors
in our south facing summer garden.

Great value buffet:
Isk. 2.150.-



Grand
HÓTEL
REYKJAVÍK

Sígtúni / tel. 514 8080 / www.GRAND.is



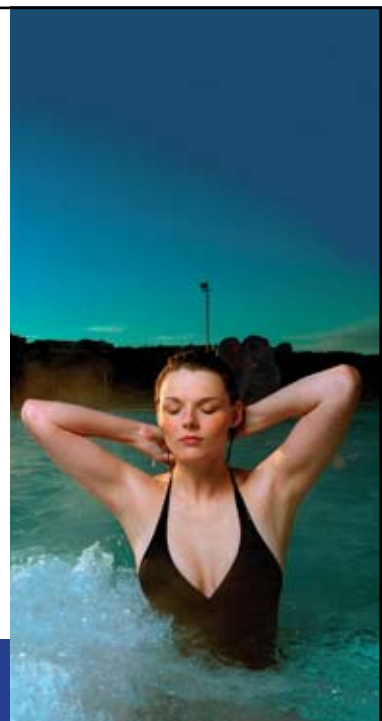
Tell us a story – Win an invitation to Iceland


The most popular spots for foreign tourists visiting Reykjavík are the Thermal Pools and Baths, which are amazing sources of wellness, good health and relaxation.

Send us an email at spa@reykjavik.is and briefly tell us about how you experienced Reykjavík's Thermal Pools and Baths. With a little luck, you could win a trip for two to Iceland with Icelandair in 2009. Ten other contestants will receive a beautiful gift from Reykjavík Spa City.

P.S. Tickets are valid from any Icelandair gateway in Europe and the USA. These tickets are not valid from 15 June to 15 August 2009. Reykjavík Spa City reserves the right to use any submitted material for promotional purposes.

www.spacity.is





THE WILD ICELAND






through the eyes of experts

For prices and information about tours visit www.snow.is or call us.
Tel: (+354) 487-1500

Myrdalsjökull glacier snowmobile tour- do not miss this.

See the Sólheimajökull from above the larger glacier, and learn about Katla, the volcano under Myrdalsjökull glacier.

Expert guides - expert results.



[RUB 23]

U M I R E S T A U R A N T

A K U R E Y R I

www.rub.is

Phone: 461 2756

CD REVIEWS



Sigurður Guðmundsson og Memfismaffan
Oft spurði ég mömmu

REVIEWED BY SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON

This is the first solo album by Sigurður Guðmundsson of Hjálmar and Senubjófarnir fame. The album is an original soundtrack to an upcoming documentary called Teipið gengur. Here, Sigurður covers classic Icelandic pop/jazz dance melodies from various artists of yore. This is an excellent compilation, really. The performance is solid, and it is difficult to argue with the selection of songs. This is the kind of CD you could slip in for a romantic evening with a loved one, and you'd already be halfway towards the goal. This might not be breaking any new ground, but sometimes a solid delivery of classics is just what you need. Sigurður has a nice delivery for this kind of songs, and pulls it off without ever sounding cheesy.



Múgsefjun
Skiptar Skoðanir

REVIEWED BY SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON

Debut release from the alt-pop darlings Múgsefjun. Their sound is built around the interaction between the accordion player and a more regular bass, drums and guitar pop instrumentation and the occasional organ. Somewhat unusual, but quite loveable all the same. The songwriting is solid, blending influences from alt-country, jazz and progressive rock to form well crafted pop tunes, nicely delivered by singer Hjalti Þorkelsson. 12 songs in all, this is a solid first recording of radio-friendly tunes from Múgsefjun, which should firmly establish them among the forefront of the Icelandic pop scene.

CONCERT REVIEW BY ODDUR STURLUSON — PHOTO BY GAS



THE BIGGEST DREADLOCKS IN THE BUSINESS COME FROM SWEDEN.

Icelandic Hip-hop Grows Up

At 12:30, one and a half hours later than the concert was advertised to begin, the first performer, Sesar A, stepped on stage. Although Sesar A deserves respect for his pivotal role in Icelandic hip-hop, I understand after seeing him rap why he is called the grandfather of Icelandic hip-hop. His rapping was just as boring as anything my grandfather ever said, and he could bore you to sleep. Fortunately, unlike my grandfather, Sesar kept it brief. When he got off the stage DJ Intro and the boys in XXX Rottweiler got on stage and did what they do best. Get the party going. Not growing up in Iceland I missed Rottweiler's golden years and have never been especially partial to them; but you gotta hand it to them, they can please a crowd. Their lyrics, while not revolutionary in technique, are all brutally honest and in your face, whether they're spitting rhymes about police brutality or just having a good time. By the time they finished, the crowd was about spent and the dance floor felt like a being in a bathtub full of beer, sweat and

other people. The anticipation for Looptroop Rockers (who changed their name after the departure of Cos.M.I.C.) was probably the only thing keeping the boxed in sweaty crowd on their feet and when they showed up the people went wild. They rapped well, interacted with the crowd and everybody had a great time. The only problem was the same thing that left me so disappointed with their latest album. I expected the good old Looptroop that I loved and respected but this was different, this was Looptroop Rockers. Although a name shouldn't mean much it seems like a lot more changed than just Tommy leaving. As a party it was great but as a concert it fell slightly short thereof. The bands were fun but it seems like the only truly active members of the hip-hop community are the same people that were doing it ten years ago. It's time for a new generation to step up and bring Icelandic hip-hop to the next level.

WHERE
Tunglið

WHEN
Monday, June 16

WHO
Sesar A
XXX Rottweiler
Looptroop Rockers

THE VERDICT
It's time for a new generation to step up and bring Icelandic hip-hop to the next level.

Unique Nature

Information centre
Garðarsbraut 7 | 640 Húsavík | ICELAND | Tel: +354 464 4300
e-mail: info@husavik.is | www.markthing.is

Dettifoss
Ásbyrgi
Hljóðaklettur
Mývatn
Goðafoss
Grenjaðarstaður
Húsavík
Melrakkaslétta
Raufarhöfn

BOSTON

BAR - LAUGAVEGUR 28B-2ND FLOOR
TEL. 517 7816
OPEN 17-01 WEEKDAYS 17-03 WEEKENDS

At Leifur Eiriksson Air Terminal you will find a wide selection of Icelandic souvenirs, products and design wares at tax and duty free prices. Everything you need to make the trip to Iceland an everlasting memory, at better price.



CD REVIEWS



Bang Gang
Ghosts from the Past



REVIEWED BY SHAIN SHAPIRO

This is a beautiful record: simple as that. Barði Johannsson has taken simplistic, synth infused melodies, wrapped each around blankets of warm, comforting reverberated vocals and soft-spoken rhythmic textures to create what is quite possibly the best Icelandic pop record to emerge this year. But this is a quiet triumph, a record that unravels more of itself with frequent listens, careful not to move too quickly to pit mood over melody. It's dark, painfully dark at times, but with Bang Gang, it's the ghosts that bellow, not the light that makes them visible. From the beginning verse of 'The World Is Grey' through the dark corridors of 'I Know You Sleep' and Postal Service-esque "You Won't Get Out", a tune co-penned with Gonzales, this is a weighty, incisive listen, one showcasing a heavyweight in Icelandic pop. Watch out Mugison.



Dísar
Dísar



REVIEWED BY SHAIN SHAPIRO

So who exactly is Dísar? Well, after several listens to the chanteuse's long-player, I cannot offer much to properly answer that question. Still, in this case, it does not matter. Dísar experiments with haunting Icelandic pop, Chamber folk, electronic blips and bleeps, cabaret and off-kilter percussive textures while attempting to hold the fort down with intelligent production techniques and childlike, suggestive vocal work. At times it is glorious, especially in the first half of the album from "Alien Symphony" through 'Final Call'. The last bit, however, including the questionable nu-soul romp of 'Equations' and too-ethereal exercise of 'Heyr Mina Ben' does not succeed, moving too far from the singer's pop-sopped comfort zone. Regardless, it is an ambitious, multi-layered set built upon a voice that holds one's own. More focus may produce a gem next time around.

CONCERT REVIEW BY NATHANIEL FLAGG — PHOTO BY GAS



svavar knútur of hraun strums his guitar.


Just the Same Old Rainbow



The first thing I thought walking into the concert was "God, what a lot of people." Hraun, playing at Rúbín this past Monday, managed to pack every table with eager fans. So assured were they of the quality of the music, I heard absolutely no complaints when the band showed up onstage 50 minutes late. From there, we embarked on a trip through every facet of the emotional spectrum. We began at plaintive, then climbed to happy, then switched to tortured angst, but then we skipped quickly to comforting and then arrived at catchy. To match the appropriate timbre, some band members had to constantly change instruments to keep up, putting down flutes to whip out mandolins, only to toot on an oboe for the next song. The audience didn't miss a single cue. They bobbed their heads at happy songs, furrowed their brows at angry ones and looked sympathetic at sad ones. If there's one thing Hraun does well, it is certainly accessibility.

Hraun's clear intention is variety - "Painting the emotional rainbow" in their words. Their new album, which this concert largely featured,

represented a "journey from misery to redemption." Yet, despite their claims of exploring the emotional capacity of music, they really don't try very hard. As easily as we can classify "Happy" and "Sad", so can we categorise each one of their songs only a few notes in. To delve into the expressive capacity of music is a necessary prerequisite for any musician, but for this rudimentary test, Hraun is completely half-assing it. Their songs seek only trite repetition of predigested themes. The result is uninspired, unmoving, and ultimately uninteresting music, whose only strength is in its ability to pander to stock emotions. If music is a language, Hraun has the vocabulary of a three-year old.

It's no wonder then, that Hraun attracts a large audience. It is unchallenging, pleasant music with nothing to "get". But even though the show began with a full house, I noticed a steady trickle on their way out as the concert pressed on. After all, no matter how long we travelled through those oh so different emotions; we just ended up hearing the same old songs. 

WHERE
Rúbín

WHEN
Monday, June 16

WHO
Hraun

THE VERDICT
Despite all their enthusiasm to explore the full capacity of emotional expression in music, Hraun's work is disappointingly shallow.

TEN THOUSAND FINGERS



More than ten thousand fingers have played beautiful music on this piano, since it arrived in Eyrarbakki village in 1871. It was brought across the Atlantic on a large merchantman, then hauled into a small fishing boat and rowed ashore, where four strong men carried it into the village in a terrible rainstorm. But you can touch it now in the Húsið museum in Eyrarbakki.



HÚSIÐ Á EYRARBAKKA
The Southcoast Museum

Open May 15th - Sept. 15th: 11 - 18. Other times by arrangement. | www.husid.com

KOLAPORTIÐ

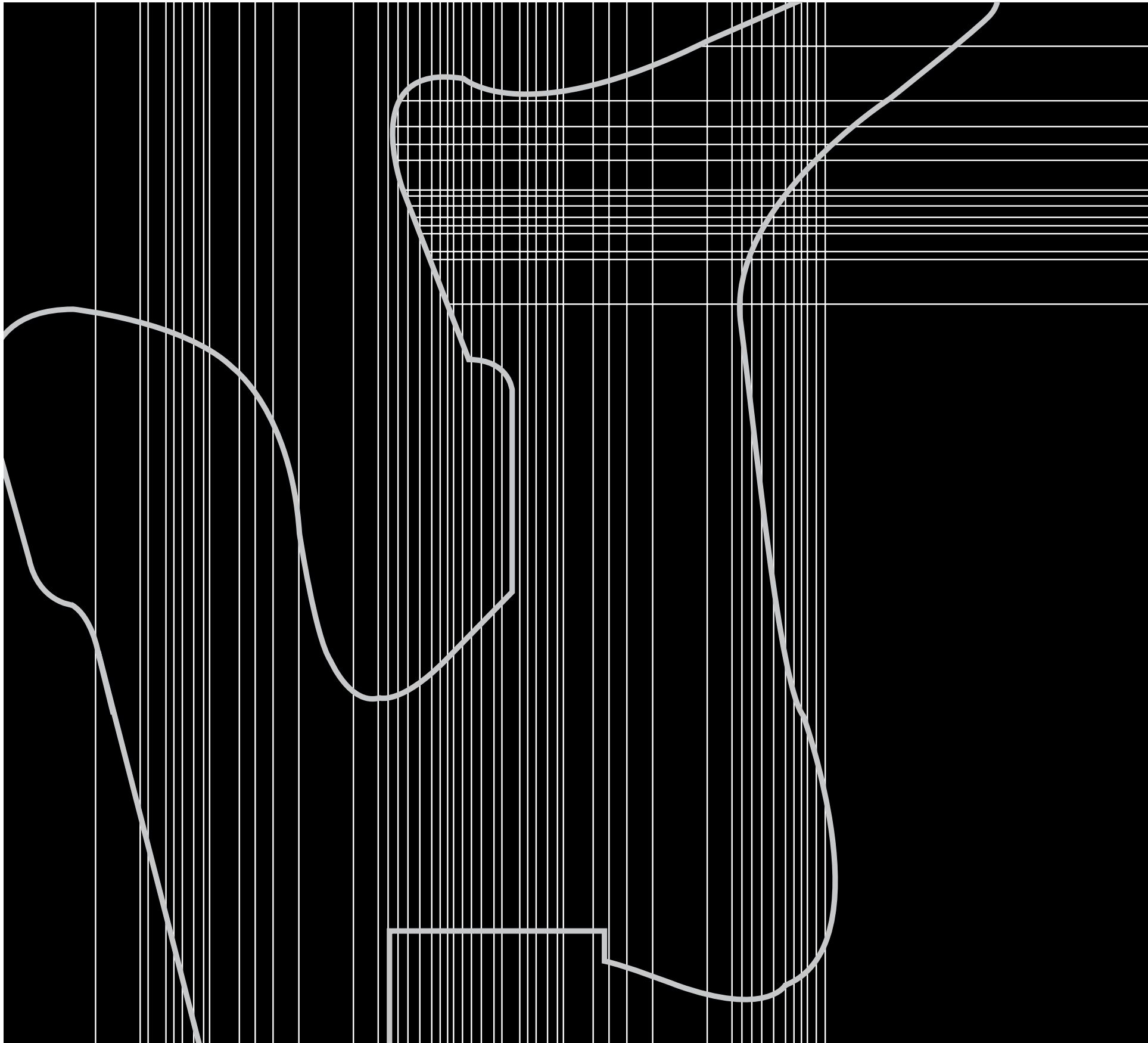
The Reykjavík Fleamarket

Down by the harbor



WELCOME

Open all weekends 11am - 5pm



Alvar Aalto

DIMENSIONS ON WOOD - HUGMYNDIR Í VIÐ

June 14 at 16:00 - August 31

An exhibition celebrating forty years of the Nordic House.
Alvar Aalto - Dimensions on Wood, in collaboration with the Alvar Aalto Museum in Helsinki.

June 14 - August 31

Exhibition „5 x 8“ celebrating forty years of the Nordic House.
The exhibition covers the years '68, '78, '98 and '08.

July 1 - July 30

Small town - more than meets the eye. Photographs from the Faroe Islands.

There is a tour of the exhibitions and the Nordic House building at 12:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays all summer. A number of smaller, interesting events will also be held this summer, with further information available on the Nordic House's website, nordice.is.

The library is open all week, 12:00-17:00
Bistro Alvar A is open workdays 10:00-16:00, weekends 12:00-17:00 and whenever an event is held.

NORRÆNA HÚSIÐ - NORDENS HUS - POHJOLAN TALO - NORDIC HOUSE www.nordice.is telephone: 551 7030



How to Fight a Polar Bear

BY HAUKUR S. MAGNÚSSON

Polar bears have featured prominently in Icelandic news lately, since two of them were spotted (and eventually killed “for reasons of national security”) north in Skagafjörður. However, one burning question remains: How do you react if you encounter a polar bear on a relaxing stroll through Skagafjörður?

Even if they are deliciously cute, polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) are pretty scary animals. Typically weighing a hefty 4-600 kilos, polar bears are the largest land carnivores, and they need to eat 50-75 seals annually. They can go from 0-30 km/h in an instant, their teeth are jagged and their claws are sharp. And while they don't rate people highly as a source of nutrition, they will not hesitate to attack if they feel threatened. And if they are hungry, they will eat you, unless your name is Chuck Norris. Here are some helpful tips:

ONE Polar bears will usually avoid confrontation with humans and run away, even though they are very curious. Try and assess the situation properly, a very young or very old bears that have trouble finding prey are more likely to attack than others, for instance. Under no circumstance should you assume that the bear will avoid you.

TWO If you spot a polar bear in the area, it is highly likely that another one is close by.

THREE A polar bear is likely to attack if it feels surprised or in danger. If you can't avoid them, make sure they spot you at a distance. Do not appear suddenly at a short distance, and do not sneak up on them. You will be killed.

FOUR Do not look a polar bear in the eye – that is an act of aggression. Make yourself visible if the bear moves towards you and try and make some noise by shouting, clapping or any other means available to you. This sometimes works to scare them off.

FIVE Even if you are carrying a gun, hesitate to use it. A single shot is highly unlikely to down a polar bear. It is more likely to piss him off.

SIX If the bear keeps coming, fire warning shots in its general direction (but not at it). Continue this for a while, this should be enough to drive the bear away.

SEVEN A saying about bears and small handguns goes: “If you bring a handgun for bear-protection, remember to always travel with someone who runs slower than you.” That says a lot.

EIGHT If you are forced to shoot at a polar bear (which should always be a last resort measure), aim for the chest, below the neck, or shoulders. Their heads are surprisingly small and hard. Keep shooting until it is perfectly still. Then leave and alert authorities.

NINE If none of this works, you are truly fucked. Sorry.



A PAINTING BY ÞRÁNDUR ÞÓRARINSSON.

Painting the National Pride

12 young artists unite for a schizophrenic exhibition in an old stable

Artists Davíð Örn Halldórsson and Alexander Zaklinsky bring together a group of 12 artists in a diverse and highly stimulating exhibition at the Lost Horse Gallery. Set inside one of the oldest houses in downtown Reykjavík, a 19th century stable to be exact, the exhibition 'June 17th', is sort of a retrospective of the younger generation of Icelandic painters.

The exhibition opened with a crowded celebration on June 17, Iceland's National Day. Davíð Örn explains that with the exhibition they wanted to show the public what the young artists are up to and also revive old traditions in the art-world that were common around mid-last-century. “At that time, it was popular to have large group-exhibitions opening on June 17, for example in Listamannaskálinn (The Artists' Gallery, opened by The Association of Icelandic Artists in 1943). This beautiful tradition has somehow vanished. We wanted to bring it back and invite the nation

to a group show on the National Day again.” Although all the artists experiment with painting in their creations, the outcome is quite diverse. “This is a schizophrenic exhibition. The artists are all working on such completely different things,” says Davíð Örn. Asked whether the paintings are supposed to have references to the National Day he replies: “We didn't set out with that in mind, but it is fun to see afterwards, looking at the paintings, how the connections start to appear, these links to the national pride, whether it is in the form of animals, balloons, or something else.”

The exhibition runs until July 22. The Lost Horse Gallery is open on weekends from 13 to 19 and on weekdays from 11 to 17 or by appointment.

WHERE
The Lost Horse Gallery
Skólastræti 1, 101 Reykjavík

WHEN
June 17 - July 22

WHO
Tómas Magnússon
Davíð Örn Halldórsson
Halldór Ragnarsson
Jóhanna Helga Þorkelsdóttir
Hrafnhildur Guðmundsdóttir
Guðmundur Thoroddsen
Þrándur Þórarinnsson
Bergþór Morthens,
Helgi Örn Pétursson,
Katrín Friðriksdóttir
Alexander Zaklinsky
Aron Bergmann

"They put on such a beautiful meal for us. We had the most amazing freshest fish I've ever had in my life. It was all so perfectly cooked too...Beautiful!"
Jamie Oliver's Diary



L A P R I M A V E R A

R I S T O R A N T E

Austurstræti 9, Reykjavík Tel: 561 8555



ICELANDIC
MOUNTAIN
GUIDES

DAYtours

Spectacular
Breathtaking
Unforgettable

Glacier & Hot
spring walks

www.mountainguides.is
Phone: +354 587 9999

It's the journey - not the destination

Enjoy ...
... the beautiful nature of
Iceland with your own CD
guide.

The best and easiest way to get to know the rugged beauty of
Iceland is simply to have your own car.
We are your car rental experts in Iceland.

Hertz
+354 522 44 00 • www.hertz.is

Hertz locations in Iceland: Keflavik Airport, Reykjavik, Ísafjörður, Akureyri, Höfn, Egilsstaðir, Selfoss

Valid until 30/06/08

we bring the o to sush

SUSHI
THE TRAIN

Osushi Lækjargata 2a Og Borgartún 29 | Sími : 561 0562

Akureyri, Egilsstaðir, Selfoss,
Hveragerði, Reykjavík,
Akranes, Hafnarfjörður,
Njarðvík, Sandgerði,
Kópavogur, Neskaupstaður,
Grundarfjörður,
Stykkishólmur, Súðavík,
Ísafjörður, Vík í Mýrdal
and Hreðavatnsskáli **have**
more than just stunning
nature and beautiful
people in common!

You **save** at the **pink stations**

The Orkan network is growing steadily, offering more savings
throughout Iceland. Keep an eye out for the Orkan petrol stations and
take advantage of our lower prices.

www.orkan.is

ORKAN
CHECK OUT THE SAVINGS!

"You haven't been in Iceland if you haven't been to us"
Don't miss it!

Viking feasts every night
- live entertainment

For booking and
further information:
Tel.: +354 565 1213
www.vikingvillage.is
vikings@vikingvillage.is
Strandgata 55 Hafnarfjörður

VIKING
village
Fjörukráin

**Iceland's
favourite
places**

- » Interactive DVD
- » Narrated in 7 languages
- » Shot in high-definition
- » All region DVD

No. 1 DVD Bestseller!
Eymundsson - your bookstore in Iceland



NATURE IS THE ADVENTURE!



Caving



Canoeing



Kayaking



Snorkeling



ATV/Quad



Horse Riding



Climbing



Snowmobile



Rafting



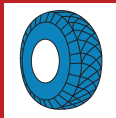
Glacial Hike



Diving



Ice Climbing



Super-Jeep



Hiking



Sightseeing



Whale Watching

www.adventures.is
info@adventures.is
+354-562-7000



MUSEUM OF SKÓGAR

Museum Round Trip

A selection of museums outside Reykjavík

Museum of Icelandic Sorcery and Witchcraft in Strandir

If you're up for a spooky trip to the West Fjords, this museum is more than ideal. The occult has always been strong in the Strandir area, only a three hour drive from the capital. In the so-called age of witchcraft in Iceland in the 17th Century the burning of hexes was initiated in Strandir, but you can learn all about this and also about the folklore connected to sorcery and witchcraft.

The French in Fáskrúðsfjörður

In the 18th Century, French yacht sailors travelled to Faskrudsfjordur and enriched the previous culture immensely. They built hospitals, a chapel, a consulate, and even used antiquated sailboats to build houses. In this museum you can get acquainted with the French contribution to Iceland in Fáskrúðsfjörður.

The Icelandic Phallus Museum

It may sound a bit bizarre that one of the main attractions of this remote town is an amply government-supported museum which solely exhibits various kinds of male genitalia, but apparently it sells. Who hasn't speculated how big a whale phallus is? Well, here's your chance to find out!

The Icelandic Herring Era Museum

Every Icelander looks back at the so-called "Herring-Adventure" in the 1950s with sparks in his or her eyes. Regrettably, the adventure didn't last for that long as the "Ocean's silver" had soon all been transported to land. In this Maritime museum, the largest in Iceland, visitors can learn about this stimulating era, while natives get the opportunity to reminisce.

Krafla Geothermal Station

Mývatnssveit

If you're into geothermal heat and volcanoes you should go to the Krafla Geothermal Station. There was a great political controversy surrounding its construction because of the staggering proximity to the active volcano, but today it operates still. There you can learn about the station's energy production and also hike up to "Hell", the popular explosion crater nearby.

The House of Nonni

Ákureyri

This museum is dedicated to the writer and Jesuit priest Jón Sveinsson. Jón Sveinsson was born of common folk in Iceland but early in his life travelled abroad and gained a felicitous opportunity when a Frenchman offered to pay for his studies in France. He finished his studies and started teaching in Denmark. Most Icelanders know of this character due to a TV-series based on his life called "Nonni and Manni."

Museum of Skógar

Skógar

Skógar is one of Iceland's finest spots where you can witness some of the country's jewels such as the Waterfall of Skógar. Just a stone's throw away, the museum lets you sneak a peek into early Icelandic life. In a reproduction of an Icelandic village, you can find the local church, the school, the farmhouse, the storehouse, as well as the newest addition to the museum: a hydroelectric plant.

The Settlement Centre

Borgarnes

The newly founded Settlement Centre, initiated by tycoon Olafur Olafsson, has become quite a hit. In its two exhibitions it explores the Icelandic Sagas and follows the life of Egill Skallagrímsson, the first Icelandic poet. You can also view two theatre productions about Egil's life and enjoy the fine restaurant there.

The Icelandic History of Music

Bildudal

This remote town in Northern Iceland may not have much to offer at first, but surprisingly it has the only established music museum in Iceland. If you're passing by you might as well as check out Iceland's music history, with displays dating from the settlement era of music of uncanny string instrumentals all the way to modern of pop music.



Fire is needed by the newcomer
Whose knees are frozen numb;
Meat and clean linen a man needs
Who has fared across the fells.*

The Icelandic Sheep,
Keeping the people alive since 874 AD.

*From the Hávamál, 1300 AD



blaird@gmail.com / photo: AUS



© Cafe Victor | Hafnarstræti 1-3 | 101 Reykjavík
| tel: 561 9555 | www.victor.is | info@victor.is

Seafood-grill mix with risotto, salad and 2 types of sauce

Grilled Salmon with salad, lemon sauce and baked potatoes

Grilled Halibut baked in garlic butter with salad and corn of the cob

Oven baked Bacalao in a tomato-basil sauce with capers and olive's

Hashed fish (Icelandic specialty) in mild curry sauce with rye bread



Life music
Icelandic lunch Menu
Situating in the heart of Reykjavík



Pizzuverksmiðjan

57 88 555

TRY OUR SEAFOOD PIZZA

LÆKJARGATA 8, 101 REYKJAVÍK WWW.PIZZUVERKSMIDJAN.COM

OPEN FROM MONDAY-THURSDAY 11:30-22:00 FRIDAY-SATURDAY A BIT LONGER

15% DISCOUNT
OF ALL MENU PRICES
WITH THIS COUPON

DESTINATION

Europe’s Largest National Park

BY STEINUNN JAKOBSDÓTTIR

On June 7, after years of preparations, Vatnajökull National Park was formally founded. The park is Europe’s largest national park and includes some of Iceland’s most stunning natural treasures such as the Vatnajökull glacier, Skaftafell National Park, Jökulsárgljúfur National Park and the surrounding area. Today the park covers around 12% of the country but the government hopes to increase its size to 15,000 km2 in the next couple of years, which will make the park cover 15% of Iceland’s surface. If that becomes a reality, Europe’s most powerful waterfall Dettifoss, the enormous Eldgjá canyon and Lake Langisjór will also belong to the National Park.

In her opening speech, Minister for the Environment, Þórunn Sveinbjarnardóttir, said that Vatnajökull National Park is the largest nature protection project in Iceland’s history and that with its foundation a large step has been taken in nature conservation. She furthermore stated that the area is so distinct that with its preservation the Vatnajökull National Park could meet the strict requirements of becoming an UNESCO World Heritage Site in the future. At the same time, the area is expected to attract a growing number of visitors, which will help develop the region and create new job opportunities in the tourism industry. According to the Iceland Tourist Board, four new visitor centres are planned to open by 2012, to accommodate an estimated number of 30,000 to 42,000 additional visitors in coming years.

The extensive area is a unique natural phenomenon. Majestic mountains, stunning waterfalls and the continuous interplay between fire and ice creates a striking contrast in the landscape, with geothermal sites, ice caps, glacial rivers, active volcanoes, lava expanses, sandy wastelands and green valleys. Adventurous travellers will find plenty of activities within the Park’s boundaries, from ice climbing or snowmobiling on Europe’s largest icecap Vatnajökull, to river rafting down Jökulsá á Fjöllum. More relaxed excursions include sailing among ice-sculptures on Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon, as well as the numerous scenic walking trails that lead through caves and canyons. Opportunities to explore the wilderness are limitless.





AIR ICELAND

Fly and discover

Air Iceland destinations



airiceland.is

/ tel. 570 3030



DESTINATION

Glacial Dogs

BY SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON

There were five of them up on the Mýrdalsjökull glacier: a journalist, a photographer, and three former sergeants from the Danish army who by some strange cosmic coincidence were all named Christian. “Just this morning, we tried an 11-dog team for the first time,” one Christian said as the men walked over to a sled harnessed to 11 large Greenland dogs resting in the snow. They prepared for departure. One Christian stayed behind while the other two strapped on cross-country skis and grabbed a rope attached to the harness. The other two men sat down on the sled. “Kom så hunde! Kom så!” the two Christians yelled.

The Greenland dog is descended directly from wolves and doesn’t bark. It only howls. It is a pack animal, and the dogs constantly fight for position within the team. Pedro, the alpha dog, was missing half of his right ear after a fight, but for now the other dogs – Bacon, Frosty, Rudolf, and Einstein – would follow his lead. But a fight could still break out at any time, and if it did the two Christians knew they had to be quick to break it up. Once the dogs start fighting they won’t stop until one of them is seriously injured, or preferably dead.

“Kom så hunde! Kom så!”

The sled moved slowly across the glacier, approaching the turn-around point. Suddenly, faster than a blink of an eye, a fight erupted. The dogs piled upon each other, howling and biting and yelping. Christian and Christian jumped off their skis and grabbed two short rubber hoses and started beating the dogs to submission. As soon as the fight started, it was over. The dogs were lying down, tails between their legs. “Did you see who started it?” Christian asked Christian. “It was Bacon.” Christian walked over to the dog to deliver a punishment. “It looks bad, but if we don’t beat them down to stop the fight, they will kill each other,” he explained to the two passengers.

The company reached the turn-around point and stopped. The four of them patted the animals and admired the view from the glacier. They talked about the difference between training soldiers and training dogs, life in Iceland and life after the army. But mostly they just admired the view from the glacier – alone in nature, alone with 11 dogs.

www.dogsledding.is
Tel.: 487 7747



Get your action-packed day tour brochure at hotels, airports or any travel agent.



Stuffed with stuff

We always continue to be a colony. We've been brain-washed, first we had the Danes ruling us, then we had the US Army and there was this panic when the army left. It is like people can't make independent decisions.

Björk on the Icelandic way of thinking
[PAGE 16](#)

Who wants to replicate the drab grey façade associated with big cities where people don't welcome each other with a friendly "góðan daginn"?

Alexandra Hertell wonders why more people don't speak Icelandic
[PAGE 6](#)

An old saying goes: "If you bring a handgun for bear-protection, remember to always travel with someone who runs slower than you."

The Grapevine estimates the threat of polar bears.
[PAGE 26](#)

You've got shit, piss, vomit and blood. Those are the four bodily fluids you can joke about. Oh, and cum. That's five, then

Comic genius Hugleikur Dagsson analyzes his sense of humour
[PAGE 6](#)

To think morally implies applying moral values like justice, love and respect which constitute an ethical attitude towards living beings and nature itself.

Everyone should listen to philosopher Páll Skúlason
[PAGE 20](#)

Three

simple things that could save your life

Hiking

1. A Travel plan

Let someone in on your travel plan

2. The Weather Forecast

Always check the weather forecast

3. The Right Equipment

Can your equipment withstand Icelandic conditions?

Driving

1. Safety belts

Don't even think about it – buckle up!

2. Limit your speed

Speeding is the no.1 cause for accidents

3. Road awareness

Most rollover accidents happen on gravelled roads

www.safetravel.is can save your life



ICE-SAR
ICELANDIC ASSOCIATION
FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

RIVER RAFTING

GLACIER TOURS

WHALE WATCHING

SIGHTSEEING

HORSE RIDING

ACCOMMODATION

JEEP SAFARIS

DAY TOURS

Book your Adventure with us

www.citycentre.is

Simply the most comprehensive Booking Services in the City specialized in customizing and developing travel packages to suit your interests and needs. We can arrange your accommodation, transfers, tours, flights and car hire based on your requirements.

CITY CENTRE BOOKING SERVICE · LOCATED INSIDE THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE · ADALSTRAETI 2 · 101 REYKJAVÍK · TEL +354 581 1717 · info@citycentre.is

City Centre
BOOKING SERVICE

FREE
BOOKING SERVICE

The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE --- iNFO



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

+ Roskilde Festival Warm-up Party · Honouring the Ultimate Groucers

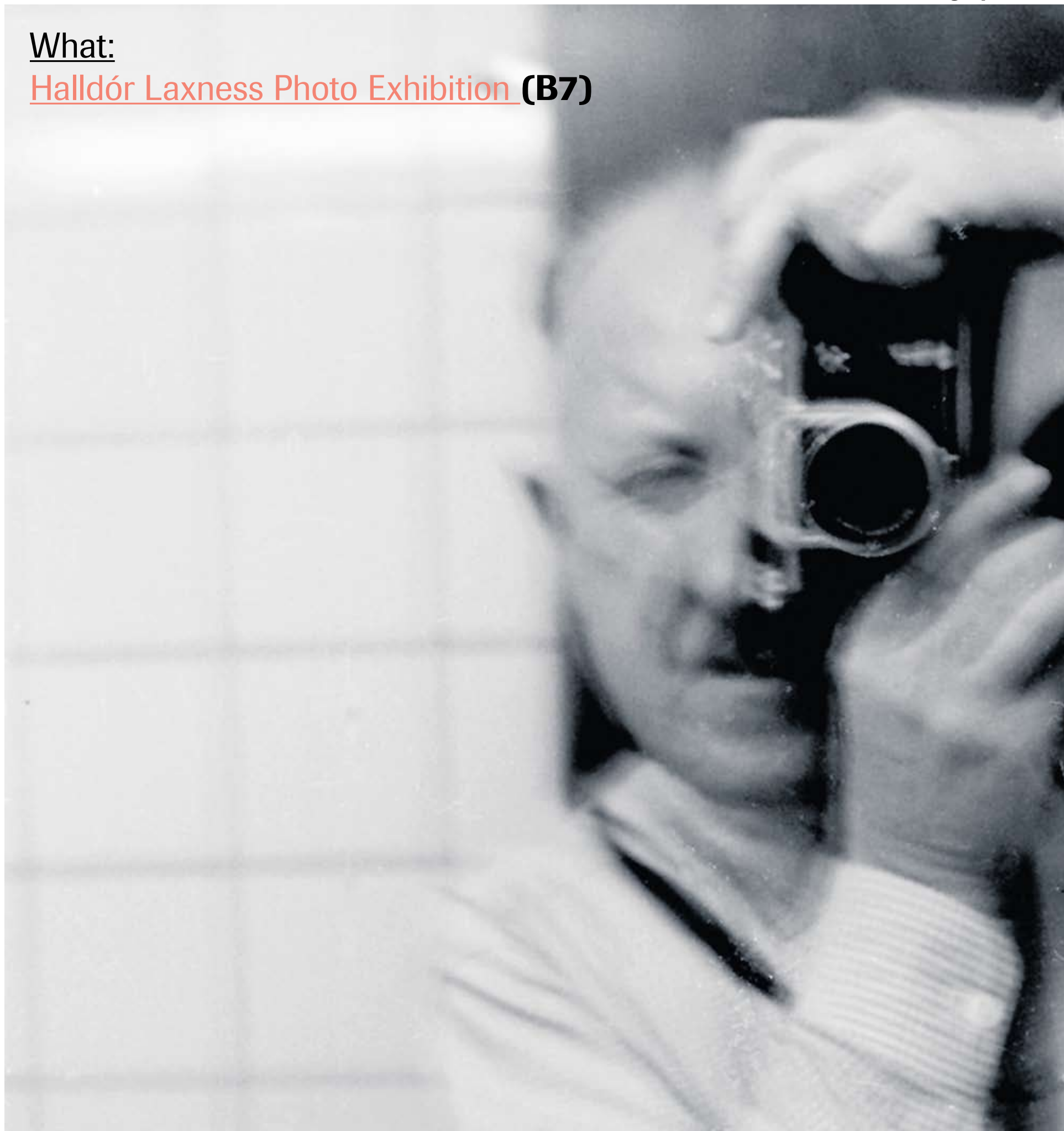
YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO LIFE, TRAVEL AND
ENTERTAINMENT IN ICELAND.

Issue 08 2008

www.grapevine.is

What:

Halldór Laxness Photo Exhibition (B7)





GEIMSTOFAN



THE VIKING

ICELAND'S LARGEST SOUVENIR SHOP

THE VIKING : INFO

Hafnarstræti 3
101 Reykjavík
tel: 551 1250

Hafnarstræti 104
600 Akureyri
tel: 461 5551

email: theviking@simnet.is



HAMBORGARA Bullan

990

Special Offer

Strandgata 11 • Akureyri Central
Tel. +354 462 1800 • www.bullan.is

TUBORG

GAMLI BAUKUR
RESTAURANT • BAR • LIVE MUSIC

Experience:
Fresh local fish!
Great Hamburgers!
Homemade icecream!
... and so much more!

www.gamlibaukur.is

Listings

If you would like to be included in the Grapevine listings, free of charge, contact the Grapevine by email at listings@grapevine.is.

Music & Entertainment

FRIDAY JUNE 20

- **22**
Friday June 20
- **Bar 11**
DJs Performing in June/July are: Matti X-FM, Gulli Ósóma, Óli Dóri and Biggi Maus
- **Brons**
Every Friday: History Sound System
- **Café Paris**
DJ A. Ramirez will play all weekends in June and July.
- **Glaumbar**
DJ Lurkur
- **Háskólabíó**
21 soloists - Icelandic Symphony Orchestra concert.
- **Hressó**
Johnny and the Rest followed by DJ Maggi
- **Kaffibarinn**
DJ Lazer
- **Nasa**
Mercedes Club and Á Móti Sól Concert
- **Organ**
Pop-Quiz at 6 PM followed by a release concert: Singapore Sling, Baconlivesupportunit and Evil Madness perform to celebrate the release of Singapore Slings new album Godman.
- **Prikið**
Búðabandið followed by DJ Danni Deluxe.
- **Q-Bar**
Anna Rakel & Sahara
- **Tunglið**
Jack Schidt & President Bongo

SATURDAY JUNE 21

- **Brons**
Every Saturday: DJ Gauti
- **Glaumbar**
DJ Valdi
- **Hellirinn**
Metal Concert featuring Carpe Noctem, Palmprint in Blood and Embrace the Plague.
- **Hressó**
Hvar er Mjallhvít followed by DJ Maggi
- **Jómfrúin**
Kristjana Stefánsdóttir Quartet
- **Kaffibarinn**
Barflies release party
Sat Jun 28: DJ Jack Schidt
- **Nasa**
Agent.is presents Booty Luv night.
- **Organ**
Björk/Sigurrós Concert warm-up: Kimono, FM Belfast and more.
- **Prikið**
DJ Andri followed by DJ Óli and DJ Rósa.
- **Q-Bar**
DJ Pinktrol (Sweden).
- **Salurinn**
The final installation in the 2008 Nordisk Horn Seminar (NORDHORNFEST 2008).
- **Tunglið**
Barcode Crew - Óli Ofur, Trix, Mr. Cuellar

SUNDAY JUNE 22

- **Gljúfrasteinn - Laxness Museum**
Mosfellssveit
This Sunday's "Sitting room concert" will feature violinist Martin Frewer and pianist Steingrímur Þórhallsson performing Bach.
- **Hallgrímskirkja**
The International Organ Summer Hörður Áskelsson plays works by Dietrich Buxtehude, Johann Sebastian Bach and Icelandic composers Hafliði Hallgrímsson and Thorkell Sigurbjörnsson.

MONDAY JUNE 23

- **Organ**

- Moha! (Norway)
- **Prikið**
House DJ.

TUESDAY JUNE 24

- **Organ**
Nick Drake Tribute
- **Prikið**
House Band.
- **Q-Bar**
Open Mic Night with hosts Brad, Myrra & Elín Ey

WEDNESDAY JUNE 25

- **Organ**
Blúsakademían (The Blues Academy)
- **Prikið**
DJ Sara.
- **Q-Bar**
Weird Girls Project fund-raiser night with DJ Kitty Von-Sometime

THURSDAY JUNE 26

- **Brons**
Every Thursday: DJ Lucky
- **Aðventkirkjan**
ICC fund-raiser concert featuring Hlín Pétursdóttir and Nanna María Cortes.
- **Dómkirkjan** (Reykjavík Cathedral)
The International Organ Summer Guðmundur Sigurðsson organist and Hjörleifur Valsson violinist give a short midday concert.
- **Glaumbar**
Beat Box (Live music) Tómas R. Einarsson (Latin, funk, techno)
- **Hressó**
DJ Bjarni and DJ Paul Wayne
- **Organ**
Mr Silla & Mongoose with FM Belfast
- **Prikið**
DJ Gauti.

FRIDAY JUNE 27

- **Café Amsterdam**
The Clit Commanders Release Party - Also performing will be Diabolus and Universal Tragedy.

Music & Entertainment | Venue finder

- Amsterdam**
Hafnarstræti 5
Kaffi Amsterdam seems to have been around forever, though recently it's been reinvented as a live venue. Good music, cheap beer, and colorful characters to be found.
- Apótek**
Austurstræti 16
Sporting a chic and pristine interior with a blend of modern minimalism and ornate baroque, a decent spot with eager service and an international menu.
- B5**
Bankastræti 5
By day a chic little bistro with good food and a prime location for Laugavegur people watching - by night a stylish bar with a "whiskey room" and manhattanesque clientele.
- Bar 11**
Laugavegur 11
A happening Rock hangout right on Laugavegur, brings in the Iceland rock scene whether on the jukebox or in person mainly on Tuesdays but throughout the week.
- Barinn**
Laugavegur 22
A popular place among the city's party scenesters, this three storied bar makes for a great night out with chatting upstairs and dancing downstairs with regular DJs.
- Belly's**
Hafnarstræti 18a
Belly's deserves praise for having the cheapest bar prices around. Good for anyone looking for a deal, there are enough tables for everyone and TVs for sport-watching.
- Boston**
Laugavegur 28b
A fresh addition to the Reykjavík bar scene. Roomy bar floor, nice sofas and stylish interior make this a comfy café as well as a tavern with good, unintrusive music.
- Café Cultura**
Hverfisgata 18
Situated in the inter-cultural centre, Cultura is a café/bar with a cosmopolitan feel. The menu features all sorts of international dishes, alongside the staple salad and sandwich.
- Café Paris**
Austurstræti 14
With an outdoor terrace, this café gets busy on sunny days. With a cosy interior, fine menu and attentive service, it makes a fine spot for evening dining as well.
- Café Victor**
Hafnarstræti 1-3
A hangout for older foreigners, Victor attracts a diverse crowd, both in age and origin, a rule that extends to the musicians that play there.
- Celtic Cross**
Hverfisgata 26

- Arguably the most authentic Irish pub in town, a very lively space with live music every night, sometimes two bands playing at once.
- Dillon**
Laugavegur 30
The quintessential rock pub Dillon serves moderately priced drinks, and has pretty good music, too. The mix of students and tattooed tough guys always creates a fun atmosphere.
- Domo**
Þingholtstræti 5
The brand-new, elegantly decorated Domo serves delicious French-Asian cuisine, excellent sushi and has a great wine list. A sure choice.
- Dubliner**
Hafnarstræti 4
The city's main Irish pub attracts quite a lot of foreigners, though there's an influx of locals on weekends. Good if you're looking for the darker stuff on tap.
- Glaumbar**
Tryggvagata 20
The premier sports bar in town, though after the final whistle, DJs take the floor and begin a night of feverish dancing.
- Grand Rokk**
Smíðjustigur
As its Viking theme accurately displays, this hardcore chess hangout is no place for the
- lily-livered. Take the pub quiz on Fridays at 17.30, the winner gets a free case of beer!
- Hressó**
Austurstræti 20
With a spacious neutral interior, pleasant courtyard and a varied lunch menu, Hressó attracts no specific type of crowd. Tap beer and music makes a fair hangout on weekends.
- Hverfisbarinn**
Hverfisgata 20
After a long line, you'll get in and wonder what all the fuss was about. You may end up here if you're still going at 4 on a Sunday morning, in which case it's just as good as any.
- Kaffi Hjómaland**
Laugavegur 21
This organic, free-trade café prides itself not only on great food and coffee but being a strong cultural center, hosting live music as well as lectures and poetry nights.
- Kaffibarinn**
Bergstraðastræti 1
A popular place to grab a drink after work, this daytime coffee joint roils with nighttime activity on weekends with live DJs. Parties often pound until dawn.
- NASA**
Þorvaldsenstr. 2
The cornerstone of Reykjavík nightlife, NASA has multiple bars and hosts some

- of Reykjavík's best bands. Shows go on all night long on weekends.
- Næsti Bar**
Ingólfstræti 1A
On nights where queues snake down Laugavegur, Næsti Bar can be great place to sneak off to and chat with friends over a beer. Frequented also by the literary and acting elite.
- Óliver**
Laugavegur 20A
This stylish nightclub attracts a glamorous crowd of crazy dancers that may not be for everyone. In which case, air-conditioning and fine food make Oliver a good lunch spot.
- Ólstofan**
Vegamótastigur
No tricks here. You'll want just simple beer in this simple pub. Also the hangout for Reykjavík intellectual circles.
- Organ**
Hafnarstræti 1-3
This trendy bar and concert venue presents a wide range of international and local musicians from all levels of renown. Shows 4 times a week, lasting late on weekends.
- Prikið**
Bankastræti 12
Part of the Reykjavík bar scene for decades, this café/bar has a fairly cheap menu and attracts a mix of students and old regulars.
- R&B and Hip-Hop plays on weekends.
- Q-Bar**
Ingólfstræti 3
A roomy gay/straight bar and a welcome addition to downtown nightlife. Some of the best DJs in town play regularly, making it an especially lively space on weekends.
- Rex**
Austurstræti 9
Rex is quite fancy and you may feel out of place if you don't dress up a bit. Definitely one of the more posh spots in town.
- Sólon**
Bankastræti 7A
Truly a jack-of-all trades establishment. By night a decent restaurant, by day a café/bistro and on Friday and Saturday nights a nightclub. Art exhibitions on the walls to top it off.
- Thorvaldsen**
Austurstræti 8
Dress formally for this fancy spot, and come before 12 to avoid a long line. DJs play Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.
- Vegamót**
Vengamótast. 4
Vegamót's kitchen is open until 22.00 daily and sports an appealing lunch menu. Come for a tasty brunch on weekends. If you like Óliver, try Vegamót and vice versa.

Art

DESTRUCTION IN THE NAME OF ART



‘RÚST - Creative Resistance Necessary Organizing’ is a political art festival, taking place in Reykjavík from June 19 to 22. The festival is organised by a group of activists who say that the aim is to deal with modern times with a critical, radical and questioning approach. The press-release reads that they “are not interested in mirroring the society, but instead really review where the ideas behind the society are going, so people can deal with the reality in a new way.” The festival features numerous events, including a workshop on political pranks in Kaffi Hljómalind, free food on Lækjartorg Square and a picture-lecture from the Beehive collective. The festival is completely funded by empty bottles, cans and other garbage they have collected. For a full programme see: www.rustrust.org

Where: Various public spaces
When: June 19 - 22

- **Glaumbar**
DJ Lurkur
- **Hressó**
Hressó and Dalton throw a garden party - DJ Maggi
- **Organ**
Rás 2 Roskilde Festival Warm-up: Performance by Bloodgroup as well as other performers.
- **Prikið**
Franz and Kristó followed by De la Rósa.
- **Q-Bar**
DJ Manny
- **Tunglið**
Carl Craig (Party Zone)

SATURDAY JUNE 28

- **Classic Rock**
Silent Rivers Release Party
- **Glaumbar**
DJ Atli (beer special night)
- **Græni Hatturinn**
Sigurður Guðmundsson & Memfismafían concert.
- **Hallgrímskirkja**
The International Organ Summer Björn Steinar Sólbergsson plays works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Charles-Marie Widor and Icelandic composer Páll Ísólfsón.
- **Hressó**
Troubadours Gotti and Eisi followed by DJ Maggi
- **Prikið**
Whitetrash night featuring Danni Deluxe - free drinks for people with stashes and pick-ups between 9 and 12 PM.
- **Q-Bar**
Rocky Horror Theme Night - DJ Diva De La Rósa
- **Tunglið**
DJ Gozht

SUNDAY JUNE 29

- **Hallgrímskirkja**
The International Organ Summer Björn Steinar Sólbergsson plays works by Charles-Marie Widor, Edward Grieg and Icelandic composer Páll Ísólfsón.

MONDAY JUNE 30

- **Hressó**
Menn Ársins followed by DJ Maggi
- **Prikið**
Maggi Lego.

TUESDAY JULY 1

- **Laugardalshöllin**
Paul Simon Concert

- **Organ**
Isidor

WEDNESDAY JULY 2

- **Organ**
Unglingahljómsveit Óskars Guðjónssonar + Faðir Vor (Jazz concert)

THURSDAY JULY 3

- **Dómkirkjan** (Reykjavík Cathedral)
The International Organ Summer Guðrún Helga Stefánsdóttir, soprano and Friðrik Vignir Stefánsson, organ.
- **Glaumbar**
Beat Box (Live Music) Jaguar (funk, soul)

FRIDAY JULY 4

- **Glaumbar**
DJ Valdi
- **Prikið**
Jenni and Franz followed by Danni Deluxe.
- **Q-Bar**
DJ Crew No Requests (Ási & Ýr)
- **Tunglið**
Plugg’ d weekend

Cultural Institutions

- **101 Gallery**
Hverfisgata 18
Thu–Sat 14–17 and by ap-
pointment. www.101hotel.is/101hotel/101gallery/
May 16 – June 27
Tenebrae: Exhibition by Jóhannes Atli Hinkriksson
- **Artótek**
Tryggvagata 15
Mon 10–21, Tue–Thu 10–19, Fri 11–19, Sat and Sun 13–17
www.sim.is/Index/Isenska/Artotek
- **ASÍ Art Museum**
Freyjugata 41
Tue–Sun 13–17, Free Entrance
June 21 – August 24
Currents: Masterpieces from the ASÍ Art Museum Collection
- **The Culture House**
Hverfisgata 15
Open daily 11–17
www.thjodmenning.is
Permanent exhibitions:
Medieval Manuscripts; The Library Room.
Current exhibitions:

Surtsey – Genesis
The exhibition traces the emergence and evolution of the island Surtsey until the present day and predicts its geographical and ecological development over the next 120 years.
From Beyond the Oceans – Translations and original writings by Helgi Hálfðanarson
The thematic exhibition currently on view in the Library Room is dedicated to Helgi Hálfðanarson’s translations and original writings. The Late View – Halldór Laxness’ Photographs
Nobel Laureate and cosmopolitan Halldór Laxness was better known for his writing but proved to be also a good photographer. This is an exhibition of his works.
Exhibition Series
Ásta Ólafsdóttir displays her artwork at the Culture Shop.

- **Dwarf Gallery**
Grundarstígur 21
Opening Hours: Fri and Sat 18–20
www.this.is/birta
- **The Einar Jónsson Museum**
Eiríksgrata
Tue–Sun 14–17
www.skulptur.is
Permanent exhibition:
The work of sculptor Einar Jónsson.
- **Fotografi**
Skólavörðustígur 4a
www.fotografi.is
Current Exhibition:
Skæni: Photographic exhibition by Rafn Hafnfjörð
- **Gallery 100°**
Bæjarháls 1
www.or.is/Forsida/Gallery100/
Open weekdays from 08:30 – 16:00
Current Exhibition:
Contemporary Art from Croatia
- **Gallery Auga Fyrir Auga**
Hverfisgata 35
June 14 – July 5
Candysop: Exhibition by Kristjana Rós Oddsdóttir Guðjohnsen
- **Gallery StartArt**
Laugavegur 12b
Tue–Sat 13 – 17, Free entrance
www.startart.is
May 16 – June 30
Flooding – Nature Lost: Rúrí exhibition
April 16 – July 30
Heima: Exhibition by Anna Eyjólfsdóttir, Ása Ólafsdóttir, Magdalena Margrét Kjartansdóttir, Ragnhildur Stefánsdóttir, Þórdís Alda Sigurðardóttir and Þuríður Sigurðardóttir.
- **Gallery Ágúst**
Baldursgata 12
Wed–Sat 12–17
www.galleriagust.is
May 16 – June 28

Kayak tour in Stokkseyri

Amazing experience

Robinson Crusoe

Appr. 1-3 hour without guide. Particularly interesting possibility for families and individuals, where participants can explore by themselves the amazing labyrinth of the swamp. Map of the area is in the reception. Notice that the area is absolutely safe.



Tours begin at the Stokkseyri swimming pool.



Adult: 3500 ISK
Children age 6-14: 1000 ISK
Under age 6 for free

kajak@kajak.is
www.kajak.is
tel. +354 896-5716

Tilveran

*Tilveran Restaurant in the heart of Hafnarfjörður
Fresh fish every day in a friendly atmosphere.*



Tilveran Restaurant – tel. (+354) 565-5250 – Linnestíg 1, Hafnarfjörður

**GREAT SELECTION OF
NEW AND USED ARMY SURPLUS
AND COLLECTABLE MILITARIA
OPEN 11 TO 5 WEEKENDS**



Looking for something delicious?

You'll find it downtown. Tasty subs, sandwiches, burgers -and probably the most popular sauce in Iceland



NONNABITI

The tasty one

Hafnarstræti 9 • S: 5612312



Grand Rokk

Reykjavík

Open every day from 11:00

Smiðjustigur 6, downtown Reykjavík



Gljúfrasteinn

LAXNESS MUSEUM

Laxness

- Audio tours in English, German, Swedish, Danish and Icelandic
- Multimedia presentation
- Museum Shop
- Walking paths in the vicinity

20 min from Reykjavík city centre
On the way to Thingvellir National Park

Opening hours
Summer: Every day 9.00-17.00
Winter: Tuesday - Sunday 10.00-17.00
Last tour begins at 17.00

Gljúfrasteinn
P.O. Box 250
270 Mosfellsbær
Tel. + 354 586 8066
gljufrasteinn@gljufrasteinn.is
www.gljufrasteinn.is


The Forget-Me-Not Burger – Simply Magical!



VITABAR

Bergþórugata 21 – 101 Reykjavík – Tel.: 5517200

Numismatic Museum



The Central Bank and National Museum of Iceland jointly operate a numismatic collection that consists of Icelandic notes and coins, foreign money from earlier times, especially if mentioned in Icelandic sources, and more recent currency from Iceland’s main trading partner countries. A selection from the numismatic collection is on display in showcases on the ground floor of the Central Bank’s main building.

Situated in the Central Bank’s main building in Kalkofnsvegur 1, Reykjavík. Open Mon.-Fri. 13:30-15:30. Free admittance.

Music

ROSKILDE FESTIVAL WARM-UP PARTY



Over the last few years Icelanders have grown more and more fond of the Danish Roskilde Festival and almost 2000 Icelanders have already purchased their tickets for this year’s festival. The Icelandic rising stars in Bloodgroup are in the line-up and so it is appropriate that they headline this warm-up party at Organ June 27. The Party is sponsored by the National Broadcasting Service, Organ and last but not least Tuborg, which explains the rumors about the free beer, but of course we cannot validate these although they seem likely. Roskilde attendant nr.1 Óli Palli will then take over and jog discs with another heavyweight music enthusiast Andrea Jóns into the night. The Party starts around 11PM and the ticket is 1000kr.

Where:
Organ
Hafnarstræti 1-3
When:
June 27

S M A R T: Solo Exhibition by Andrea Maack. Part of the Reykjavík Art Festival.

○ **Gallery Fold**
Rauðarárstígur 14-16
Mon-Fri 10-18, Sat 11-16, Sun 14-16, www.myndlist.is

○ **Gallery Ibiza Bunker**
Þingholtsstræti 31
Open Fridays 17-20
www.myspace.com/ibizabunker
June 20
Exhibition by Kristján Zaklynsky & Lina Larsen
June 27
Exhibition by Lilja Birgisdóttir & Ingibjörg Birgisdóttir
July 4
Exhibition by Bergdís Hrönn Guðvarðardóttir & Anna Hrund Másdóttir

○ **Gallery Kling & Bang**
Hverfisgata 42
Thursday - Sunday from 14-18
Free admission. this.is/klingogbang/
May 16 – June 22
Uncertainty Principle: Exhibition by Sirra Sigrún Sigurðardóttir. Part of the Reykjavík Art Festival.
July 4 – August 8
Artist on the Verge of Something II

○ **Gallery Turpentine**
Ingólfsstræti 5
Tue-Fri 12-18, Sat 11-16
www.turpentine.is
Current Exhibition:
Paintings by Eyjólfur Einarsson

○ **Gel Gallery**
Hverfisgata 37
Mon-Fri 13-18, Sat 11-16, Sun 14-16
www.myspace.com/gallerigel

July 5 – July 22
Effervescent Delights: Exhibition by Namita Kapoor

○ **Gerðuberg Cultural Centre**
Gerðuberg 3-5
Mon-Thu 11-17, Wed 11-21, Thu-Fri 11-17, Sat-Sun 13-16
www.gerduberg.is
May 3 – Sep 7
Between Mountain and Shore: Exhibition of landscape paintings from popular-artist couple Michael Guðvarðarson and Ósk Guðmundsdóttir
May 3 – Sep 7
Magical Beings From the Folk Tales of Iceland: Drawings from Jón Baldur Hlíðberg
4 March – 7 September
A Date with Collectors III: All of the exhibition pieces are connected with music in one way or another!

○ **Hitt Húsið - Gallery Tukt**
Pósthússtræti 3-5
www.hitthusid.is
Every Friday this summer will be a “Fantastic Friday” where Hitt Húsið’s Creative Summer Groups storm the streets in an attack of art between 12 AM and 2 PM.

○ **i8 Gallery**
Klapparstígur 33
Tue-Fri 11-17, Sat 13-17 and by appointment, www.i8.is
May 16 – June 28
Exhibition by Ernesto Neto
July 10 – August 9
Exhibition by Hamish Fulton

○ **Living Art Museum**
Laugavegur 26
Wed, Fri-Sun 13-17
Thu 13-22

www.nylo.is
May 16 – June 21
Karl Holmqvist and the Performance Archive

○ **The Lost Horse Gallery**
Skólastræti 1
Open on weekends from 13- 19 and by appointment on weekdays.
www.this.is/subaqua/losthorse.html
Jun 17 – July 22
Independence Day Painting Exhibition (Curated by Davíð Örn Halldórsson and Alexander Zaklynsky): Features works by a group of Icelandic painters

○ **The National Film Archive of Iceland**
Hvaleyrarbraut 13
www.kvikmyndasafn.is
The National Film Archive of Iceland screens old movie classics and masterpieces twice a week for 500 ISK per ticket.

○ **The National Gallery of Iceland**
Fríkirkjuvegur
Tue-Sun 11-17
Free Entrance, www listasafn.is
May 16 – June 29
Art Against Architecture: Elín Hansdóttir, Franz West, Finnogi Pétursson, Monica Bonvicini and Steina

○ **The National Museum**
Suðurgata 41
Open daily 10-17, natmus.is/
Permanent exhibition:
The Making of a Nation
June 6 – January 21
Yfir Hafíð og Heim: Icelandic artefacts from Sweden.
May 16 – Sept 14
Endurkast (Rebound): Cooperative

Cultural Institutions | Venue finder

101 Gallery
Hverfisgata 18A
Located in the 101 Hotel, features a broad selection of international and local contemporary art.

Artótek
Tryggvagata 15
An Icelandic art exhibition space and art dealer. Pieces are available for purchase or lease.

ASI Art Museum
Freyugata 41
Run by the ASI labor union, features mostly contemporary Icelandic art. Free entry.

Árbæjarsafn
Kistuhylur 4
An open-air museum featuring arts-and-crafts fairs and exhibitions in the summer.

The Einar Jónsson Museum
Eiríksgrata
Features a permanent exhibition on the sculptor Einar Jónsson as well as temporary exhibits.

The Culture House
Hverfisgata 15
A Museum of Icelandic cultural history, with an ongoing exhibition of the original manuscripts of the sagas and eddas.

Gallery Kling & Bang
Laugavegur 23
Exhibits upcoming and established contemporary artists as well as hosting screenings, lectures and performances.

Gallery Turpentine
Ingólfsstræti 5
Houses a collection of Icelandic contemporary artwork as well as works from old Icelandic masters both for display and sale.

i8 Gallery
Klapparstígur 33
Represents work by an eclectic mix of Icelandic and international contemporary art.

Living Art Museum
Vatnsstígur 3
A non-profit gallery that organizes 8-10 larger exhibitions every year as well as other cultural events.

Lost Horse Gallery
Skólastræti 1
Located in a renovated stable off Laugavegur, features work by local artists.

The National Gallery of Iceland
Fríkirkjuvegur 7
Houses the national art collection and is the center of research and documentation of Icelandic art.

The National Museum
Suðurgata 41
Established in 1863, this museum features exhibits on Icelandic cultural heritage.

The Nordic House
Sturlugata 5
Explores and promotes Scandinavian culture with regular lectures, films and exhibitions.

The Numismatic Museum

Einholt 4
Presents a cultural history of Iceland through analysis of collected coins, medals and books.

Reykjavík 871+/-2
Aðalstræti 17
Museum on the founding of Reykjavík. Located in the oldest house in the city. Tours in English on Mondays and Saturdays at 14.00

Reykjavík Art Museum
Hafnarhús, Tryggvagata 17
Specializing in contemporary art by local and international artists. Entrance free on Thursdays.

Reykjavík City Theater

Listabraut 3
Presenting Icelandic Music and Dance performances as well as Dramatic Theater, produces six new shows each year.

Reykjavík Maritime Museum
Grandagarður 8
With a fishing trawler-turned-exhibit space, educates on the maritime and fishing traditions of Iceland.

Reykjavík Museum of Photography
Tryggvagata 16
Features work by local and international photographers, as well as an archive on the history of photography.

Film

HONOURING THE ULTIMATE GROCERS



From June 20 to 24, the documentary Kjötborg, directed by Helga Rakel Rafnsdóttir and Hulda Rós Guðnadóttir, will be screened at Háskólabíó movie theatre. The film centres on the brothers and grocers Gunnar and Kristján, who have operated the neighbourhood corner shop Kjötborg on Ásvallagata for decades. While supermarket-chains have taken over the city, their store is one of the very few charming groceries remaining. Kjötborg, which documents the brother's daily lives and the many regulars relying on the store for their daily groceries, won the audience award at this year's Skjaldborg Film Festival. The film has English subtitles and will only be shown these few days, so you better hurry.

Where:
Háskólabíó movie theatre
At Hagatorg
When:
June 20 - 24

photography exhibition between eight Icelandic photographers.
May 16 – Sept 14
In the Mist: Exhibition by French photographer Thomas Humery.
May 15 – Sept 1
Lífshlaup: Cooperative project between The University of Iceland and the National Museum.

- **The Nordic House**
Sturlugata 5
Tue–Sun 12–17
www.nordice.is/
June 14 – August 31
An exhibition celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Nordic House.
- **The Numismatic Museum**
Kalkofnsvegur 1
Open Mon–Fri 13:30–15:30.
Free admission.
Permanent exhibition:
The Central Bank of Iceland and the National Museum of Iceland jointly operate a numismatic collection consisting of Icelandic notes and coins.
- **Reykjavík 871 +/- 2**
Aðalstræti 16
Open daily 10–17
Permanent exhibition:
The Settlement Exhibition
- **Reykjavík Art Gallery**
Skúlagata 28
Open from Tuesday through Sunday 14–18
Current exhibition:
Magnús Tómasson, Pétur Már Pétursson and Tolli
- **Reykjavík Art Museum – Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum**
Sigtún
Open daily 10–16 , Free entrance.
www listasafnreykjavikur.is
May 20 – August 10
The Shape of Line
A new retrospective of works by Ásmundur Sveinsson. The exhibition focuses on abstract works from 1945 onwards.
- **Reykjavík Art Museum – Hafnarhús**
Tryggvagata 17
Open daily 10–17 and on Thursdays from 10 - 22, Free Entrance.
May 15 – August 24
Hafnarhús - Experimental Marathon Reykjavík: Hafnarhús turns into a major laboratory where leading artists, architects, film-makers, and scientists will create an environment of invention through various experiments and performances (in English). Curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist and Ólafur Elíasson.

- **Reykjavík Art Museum – Kjarvalsstaðir**
Flókagata
Open Daily 10–17, Free entrance.
18 May – 31 August
Dreams of the Sublime and Nowhere in Contemporary Icelandic Art:
This exhibition includes many new works of photography and video art by Iceland's most outstanding artists, building on their disparate ideas about nature as a phenomenon.
18 May – 20 July
I Hate Nature/Aluminati: Installation by Martha Schwartz
18 May – 31 August
Where Am I?: An exhibition in which children and adults can contemplate their planet, their country, and the landmarks of their environment.
18 May – 31 December
Jóhannes S. Kjarval – Key Works: The current exhibition in Kjarvalsstaðir's east gallery features key works from the museum's collection along with works on loan from the Labor Unions' Art Gallery and from the collection of Ingibjörg Guðmundsdóttir and Þorvaldur Guðmundsson.
- **Reykjavík Maritime Museum**
Grandagarður 8
www.sjominjasafn.is
Current Exhibitions:
Living Museum by the Sea; Arterial for Country and City; From Poverty to Abundance; The Shark – Light and Life Energy; Hidden Craftsman.
- **Reykjavík Museum (Árbæjarsafn)**
Kistuhylur 4
Open daily from 10–17
www.arbaejarsafn.is
Current exhibitions:
Building Techniques in Reykjavík 1840–1940; Disco and Punk – Different cultures?; Christmas is Coming; History of Reykjavík – from farm to city; Memories of a House; Living and Playing
- **The Reykjavík Museum of Photography**
Grófarhús, Tryggvagata 15, 6th floor
Weekdays 12–19, Sat–Sun 13–17, Free entrance. www.ljosmyndasafn-reykjavikur.is
May 31 – Aug 31
Skovbo: Exhibition by Viggo Mortensen
June 5 – July 29
The Lodgers: Photographs by Anne Kathrin Greiner

- **Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum**
Laugarnestangi 70
Open Tue–Sun 14–17
Permanent exhibition:
Works of sculptor Sigurjón Ólafsson.

OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK

- Hafnarborg**
Strandgata 34, Hafnarfjörður
Mon–Sun 11–17
www.hafnarborg.is
May 29 – July 21
Hundrað (Hundred) – Photographic exhibition featuring photographs spanning Hafnarfjörður's 100-year history
June 1 – July 21
Hafnirfirdingar – Photographic exhibition by Árni Gunnlaugsson focusing on long time residents of Hafnarfjörður
- **Kópavogur Art Museum – Gerðarsafn**
Hamraborg, Kópavogur
Open daily 11–17 except Mondays
www.gerdarsafn.is
- **The Icelandic Museum of Design and Applied Art**
Lyngás 7–9, 121 Garðabær
Opening hours: Tues.–Fri 14–18; Sat and Sun 16–18.
www.mudesa.org
Exhibitions devoted to Icelandic design.
- **Gljúfrasteinn – Halldór Laxness Museum**
270 Mosfellsbær
Open daily except Mondays from 10–17.
- **The Icelandic Settlement Centre**
Brákarbraut 1–15, Borgarnes
Opening hours: May to Sep 10–20; Sep to May 11–17. www.landnam.is
Permanent exhibitions:
The Settlement of Iceland; The Saga of Egill Skalla-Grímsson
Current theatre productions:
Brák – a monologue by Brynhildur Guðjónsdóttir
Mr. Skallagrímsson – a monologue by Benedikt Erlingsson
- **Suðsúðvestur**
Hafnargata 22, Keflavík
Sat–Sun 13–17:30
www.sudsudvestur.is
- **Vatnasafn / Library of Water**
Bókhöðustígur 17, 340 Stykkishólmur
www.libraryofwater.is
Open daily from 11–17.
Permanent exhibition:
Roni Horn installation. She has replaced stacks of books with

We don't serve foreigners...

because to us - nobody is foreign.

Only 45 min. drive from Reykjavík is Eyrarbakki, a beautiful village by the south coast, where foreigners have been feeling at home since the 9th century AD. So welcome to **Rauða húsið**, a restaurant that makes you feel at home.

Tel: (+354) 483-3330,
Eyrarbakki - South coast

rauða húsið
restaurant Eyrarbakka



31 May – 31 August 2008



LJÓSMYNDASAFN REYKJAVÍKUR
Reykjavík Museum of Photography

Tryggvagata 15, 6th floor · 101 Reykjavík · Tel. 563 1790 · photomuseum@reykjavik.is · www.photomuseum.is
Opening hours 12–19 mon–fri, 13–17 weekends · ADMISSION FREE



Ó restaurant -as good as it gets!

Located in the old charming area of Reykjavík
Ó restaurant offers you an unforgettable culinary experience.

Our emphasis is on seasonal and natural ingredients and our menu includes the famous **Icelandic fish and lamb**.

Iceland's modern cuisine at its best

FIGUR/SIA




Ó restaurant Þórsgrata 1 Tel. +354 511 66 77 oreastaurant.is
Hótel Óðinsvé 101 Reykjavík Tel. +354 511 62 00 o@oreastaurant.is



Icelandic Art

...
The Essence of a Nation



Art Gallery Fold

offers the country's largest selection of contemporary Icelandic art

Rauðarárstígur 14, near Hlemmur bus station, tel. 551 0400
Kringlan Shopping Mall, tel. 568 0400 · www.myndlist.is



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

Reykjavík City Museum

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.



do not make your next pass the last Icelandic roads are narrow

Make your first stop at www.drive.is and read the necessary information on how to drive in Iceland.


ROAD TRAFFIC DIRECTORATE



BEZT Í HEIMI® LOBSTER SOUP
850.- kr

MOBY DICK ON A STICK

PURTRIFIED SHARK
marinated in Icelandic schnapps
HARD FISH



Verðúð 8 / tel.553 1500 / Geirsgata
OPENING HOURS : 12- 22



Music

MR. SILLA & MONGOOSE

Mr. Silla & Mongoose have convened a grand celebration Thursday June 26 in Organ. This is in fact a release concert for their debut album Foxbite which for some reason never was held, but they're making up for it by celebrating it's anniversary more flamboyantly than is customary. The dance moguls of FM Belfast also plan to give the audience some fresh tunes straight from USA

where they have hung around lately and simultaneously revere the duo's debut. Yet another thing that makes this concert unconventional is the talked-about ornamentations and the glorified cakes which Silla herself has promised to be unforgettable.

Where: **Organ, Hafnarstræti 1-3**
When: **June 26**

glass columns containing water gathered from Iceland's glaciers and glacial rivers.

○ **Jónas Viðar Gallery**
Kaupvangsstræti 12, Akureyri
Fri–Sat 13–18
www.jvs.is/jvgallery.htm

○ **Akureyri Art Museum**
Kaupvangsstræti 12, Akureyri
Tue–Sun 12–17
www listasafn.akureyri.is
May 17 – June 29
Facing China: The exhibition brings together nine internationally acclaimed contemporary Chinese artists, Chen Qing Qing, Fang Lijun, Liu Ye, Tang Zhigang, Wei Dong, Yang Shaobin, Yue Minjun, Zhang Xiaogang and Zhao Nengzhi.

○ **GalleriBOX**
Kaupvangstræti 10, Akureyri
www.galleribox.blogspot.com
June 21 – June 29
Exhibition by Hannah Kasper

○ **Veggverk**
Strandgata 17 (The Wall), Akureyri
Open 24/7 and admission is free
www.veggverk.org
Current exhibition:
All Hail The Brain: Painting by Sara Riel

○ **Kunstraum Wohnraum (Home gallery)**
Ásabyggð 2, Akureyri

Open by appointment. Tel.: 462 3744
Mar 16 – Jun 22
Ragnar Kjartansson exhibition

○ **Skafftelli**
Austurvegur 42, Seyðisfjörður
www.skafftelli.is
Current Exhibition:
Journey – a collaboration between three art centres, realized especially for the Reykjavík Art Festival. Skafftelli's contribution to Journey is an exhibition by SkyrLeeBob now on display in the gallery
June 7– June 24
Hilmar Bjarnason and Gunnhildur Una Jónsdóttir will be the artists featured on the west wall this month as part of the Sjónheyrn project.

○ **Sláturhúsið**
Kaupvangur, Egilsstaðir
www.slaturhusid.is
Open by appointment; karen@egilsstadir.is
Current Exhibition:
Sara Björnsdóttir exhibition

○ **LÁ Art Museum**
Austurmörk 21, Hveragerði
www listasafnarnesinga.is
Open daily from 12 – 18
Current Exhibition:
Exhibition on the works of visual artist Magnús Kjartansson.

Shopping | Venue finder

12 Tónar
Skólavörðustígur 15
A record label as well as a store, all the best new Icelandic music on CDs or live on Fridays at 5 PM.

Aftur
Laugavegur 23
Aftur's internationally acclaimed label is proudly displayed here in their shop/studio.

Álafoss
Laugavegur 1
The downtown outlet for famous makers of traditional Icelandic woolens.

Belleville
Laugavegur 25
Stuffed with trendy streetwear designs as well as funky magazines and media.

Blue Lagoon Store
Laugavegur 15
All the natural skincare products from the famous geothermal spa at their outlet here.

Cintamani
Laugavegur 11
Featuring quality Icelandic outdoor gear, you can even book an excursion on the spot.

Dead
Laugavegur 29
Artist Jón Sæmundur

Auðarson's own hand-printed Rock and Roll label, Dead, plus others.

Figúra
Skólavörðustígur
This shop features Icelandic designer wear, everything from street clothes to party dresses.

Fríða Frænka
Vesturgata 3
A real treasure chest of antique furniture and vintage accoutrements to perk up your apartment.

G-Star Raw
Laugavegur 86
A store for the Dutch jeans brand, an edgy collection with innovative details and washes.

Galleri Sautjón
Laugavegur 91
Stocking many hip labels, a unisex store offering casual businesswear to evening dresswear.

Glamúr
Laugavegur 41
A flashy vintage clothing shop with everything from necklaces to fur coats to kimonos.

Handþrjónasambandið
Skólavörðustígur 19

All sorts of hand knit woolen clothing as well as fine yarns and knitting supplies.

lða
Lækjargata 2A
A great source for all kinds of reading material, with restaurants on the second floor.

Kisan
Laugavegur 7
An interesting mix of items from all around the world you won't find anywhere else.

Kisuberjatréd
Vesturgata 4
A lovely gallery/gift shop run by ten artists and designers where they sell their products.

Kolaportíð
Tryggvagata 19
Open on weekends, you can get a bargain on almost anything at this indoor flea market.

Kraum
Aðalstræti 10
Featuring the best in contemporary Icelandic design of everyday items of any kind.

Kronkron
Laugavegi 63B
This hip new shop stocks the latest trends in everything from socks to sweaters.

Liborius
Laugavegur 7
One of a kind, very high-end shop featuring the latest, crispest designs for both sexes.

Mál og Menning
Laugavegur 18
A multi-level store with games, books, souvenirs and a bustling café on the top floor.

Nakti Apinn
Bankastræti 14
Offers an amazing array of colorful designer wear as well as contemporary media.

Spúútnik
Laugavegur 32
One of the best secondhand shops in the country, with recycled clothes at a range of prices.

Trilogia
Laugavegur 7
A collection of trendy designer wear fills the shop, summery dresses, sweaters and skirts.

The Viking
Hafnarstræti 3
This large tourist shop sells all sorts of smart souvenirs to bring back home.



Music

HALLDÓR LAXNESS — THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Nobel Prize winner Halldór Laxness is mostly known for his writing but with the exhibition, 'The Late View', guests can learn that he wasn't only a legendary author, but a talented photographer. The exhibition features photographs from Laxness' private collection. Snapshots of his family, friends and

co-workers are displayed in a remarkable exhibition that bears witness to a life's story that entailed interrelations between family life, political life and a career as a novelist.

Where: **The Culture House, Hverfisgata 15**

Movies

- **Brúðguminn**
Regnboginn
- **Flawless**
Regnboginn
- **Horton (Hears a Who!)**
Smárabíó
- **Indiana Jones IV**
Smárabíó, Sambíóin Álfabakki, Háskólabíó, Regnboginn, Borgarbíó
- **Iron Man**
Sambíóin Álfabakki
- **Meet Bill**
Háskólabíó, Regnboginn,
- **Nim's Island**
Sambíóin Álfabakki, Sambíóin Akureyri
- **Sex and the City**
Háskólabíó, Sambíóin Kringlan, Laugarásbíó, Regnboginn, Borgarbíó, Sambíóin Selfoss
- **Speed Racer**
Sambíóin Álfabakki, Sambíóin Kringlan, Sambíóin Keflavík, Sambíóin Akureyri, Sambíóin Selfoss.
- **The Bank Job**
Sambíóin Álfabakki, Sambíóin Kringlan
- **The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian**
Smárabíó, Sambíóin Álfabakki, Sambíóin Kringlan, Laugarásbíó, Sambíóin Keflavík, Sambíóin Akureyri, Sambíóin Selfoss
- **The Forbidden Kingdom**
Sambíóin Álfabakki, Sambíóin Kringlan
- **The Happening**
Smárabíó, Háskólabíó
- **The Incredible Hulk**
Smárabíó, Sambíóin Álfabakki, Laugarásbíó, Borgarbíó, Sambíóin Selfoss
- **Zohan**
Smárabíó, Háskólabíó, Regnboginn, Borgarbíó, Sambíóin Selfoss

Events

- **LungA: The Arts Festival of Youngsters in the East**
Between July 14 and 20 the miscellaneous arts festival Lunga will take place in Seyðisfjörður. The Festival began with few youngsters unhappy with the small-scale selection of hobbies in Seyðisfjörður and so established this festival. This year it includes a great selection of music performances such as Borko, Morðingjarnir, Bang

Gang and even big DJ names such as Trentemøller from Denmark. In addition to the music Pesta they have both a design exhibition and also various workshops on a diverse spectrum of topics. For more info about festival and tickets www.lunga.is

- **RÚST – ANnihilATE-Creative Resistance Necessary Organizing**
The controversial festival RÚST will be held from June 18 till June 22. For more info, see the pick and www.rustrust.org
- **Jazzfestival in Egilsstaðir**
Once a year all the jazz freaks in Reykjavík flock to this rural town in the East to listen to this unrivalled selection of Jazz. The first acts begin June 25 and more respected high pyers will provide the festival-goers titillating melodies until June 28. Acts this year vary from the dance and musical piece Draumar, the jazz patron Larry Carlton and Icelandic wags Siggí Flosa and Jón Páll to the hip dance posse Bloodgroup. More info www.jea.is
- **The Blue Car Engine Receives Proper Treatment**
This four-day experiment was supposed to be in the Experimental Marathon earlier in June but the necessary copper sulphate hadn't arrived in time. so it will be conducted June 19 in Reykjavik Art Museum in Hafnarstræti. At 5 PM on June 17 technicians will whip up a highly dangerous chemical compound and dip the engine into it. The latter part of the experiment will be performed at June 22 at 2PM when the engine will be revealed again. The tickets are of course free of charge, so please do check out this unique experiment.
- **The Music Festival Við Djúpið**
The 6th Music Festival "Við Djúpið" held in Ísafjörður has already begun, but the grand opening was thrown alongside to the town's Independence Day celebration. The opening recital consisted of young violinist Pekka Kuusisto and pianist Simon Crawford-Phillips, but what's coming is just as outstanding, including a midsummer night concert with Norwegian pianist Håkon Austbø. A new feature of this year's festival is both the Lunch concert series and the various lectures offered by The University Centre of the Vestfjords. For more info www.viddjupid.is



Where you find souvenirs from Iceland


We are located right in the middle of downtown Reykjavík.
We sell books, music, souvenirs and lots more.

open every day from 9.00 to 22.00


LÆKJARGATA 2A 101 REYKJAVÍK OPEN 09 - 22 EVERY DAY TEL. 511-5001

Next time you'll be there too

Paddy's, Keflavik City



www.myspace.com/paddysforever



TUBORG
THE FUN STARTS HERE

GUINNESS
DRAUGHT

langbest

PIZZERIA • STEAKHOUSE
PIZZAS, SALADS, BURGERS, STEAKS,
SANDWICHES, SEAFOOD, KIDS MEALS AND SO MUCH MORE!

HAFNARGATA 62 - KEFLAVÍK
421-4777
ONLY 50M FROM THE HOTELS

VIKING **NEW! ALSO TRY OUR NEW RESTAURANT UP ON VIKING LANE** **VIKING**
KEFLAVÍK'S FAVORITE RESTAURANT FOR OVER 20 YEARS

INDIAN MANGO

RESTAURANT

Press reviews:

.. Probably the best addition to Icelandic restaurant landscape

.. Great food, something new in Iceland, like never seen before

Fine dining Indian cuisine, hard to beat anywhere!!

Frakkastigur 12,

tel: 551-7722

open 17 til late

www.indianmango.is

Opening Hours
Bars and clubs: According to regulations bars may be open until 01:00 on weekdays and 05:30 on weekends. Shops: Mon.-Fri. 10:00-18:00, Sat. 10:00-16:00, Sun. closed. The shopping centres Kringlan and Smáralind as well as most supermarkets and tourist shops have longer opening hours. Swimming pools: Weekdays 06:30-22:30, weekends 08:00-20:30 although some may be open an hour longer. 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, Sat. 10:00-14:00. Stamps are also sold in bookstores, gas stations, some grocery stores and tourist shops.

Public Phones
There aren't many public payphones in the city centre. The tourist information centre at Aðalstræti 2 has three phones and two are located in front of Hotel Reykjavík Centrum in Aðalstræti 16. Buying a prepaid Atlas international phone card is recommended.

Public Toilets
The few public toilets in the centre can be found inside the green poster covered towers located, for example, at Hlemmur, Ingólfstorg and Skólavörðustigur. Toilets can also be found inside the Reykjavík City Hall and the Reykjavík Library.

Useful Numbers
Emergency number: 112
Medical help: 1770
Dental emergency: 575 0505
Alcoholics Anonymous: 551 2010
Information: 118
Taxi: 553 3500, 588 5522, 561 0000

Pharmacies
Lyf og heilsa, Egilsgata 3, Tel.: 563 1020
Lyfja, Laugavegur 16, Tel.: 552 4045
Car rentals
Hertz, Flugvallavegur, Tel.: 505 0600
Budget, Vatnsmýrarvegur 10, Tel.: 562 6060

Bus Terminal
BSÍ, Vatnsmýrarvegur 10,
Tel: 562 1011, www.bsi.is

Domestic Airlines
Air Iceland, Reykjavíkurlugvöllur,
Tel: 570 3030, www.flugfelag.is
Air Vestmannaeyjar, Tel: 481 3255,
www.eyjaflug.is

Public Transport
The only public transport system in Reykjavík is the bus. Most buses run every 20 minutes and the price per fare is 280 ISK for adults and 100 ISK for children. 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

Internet Access
Most coffeehouses have wireless Internet access. Computers with Internet connections are available at:
Ráðhúskaffi City Hall, Tjarnargata 11
BSÍ Bus Terminal, Vatnsmýrarvegur 10
GZ, Vallarstræti 10
The Reykjavík City Library, Tryggvagata 15
The National and University Library, Arngrímshús, Arngrímshúsvegur 3
Tourist Information Centre, Aðalstræti 2
Icelandic Travel Market, Bankastræti 2
Arctic Rafting, Laugavegur 11

CINTAMANI

CENTER

LAUGAVEGI 11

JETBOIL

SCARPA

Teva

Black Diamond

Sími: 517 8088

WWW.CINTAMANI.IS

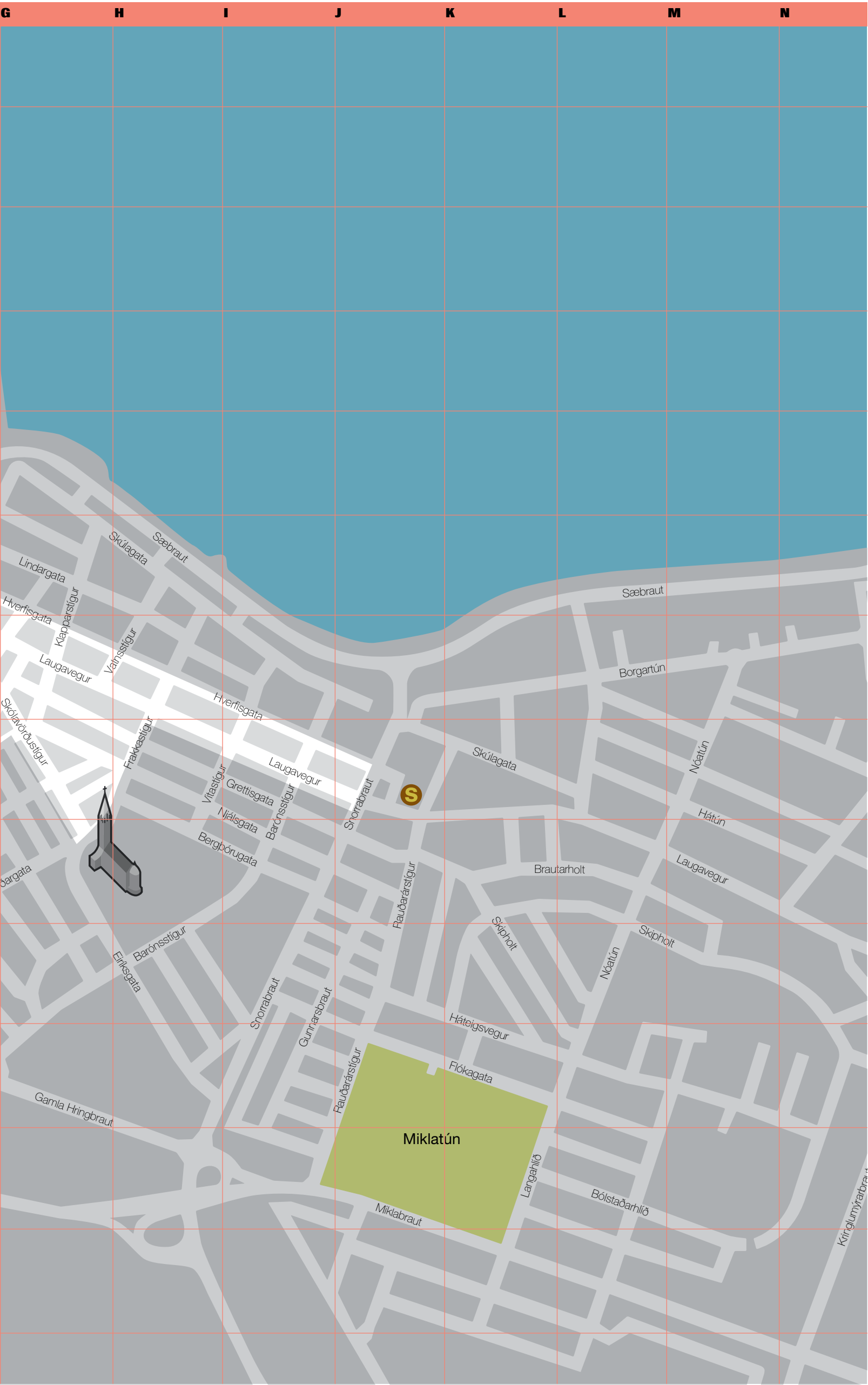
FUN & FINE DINING BY THE HARBOUR

GEIRSGATA 9 101 REYKJAVIK 5611111 ORANGE.IS

illusion fusion

CHEESE CAKE - STRAWBERRIES, KIWI & CHOCOLATE

RESTAURANT COCKTAIL LOUNGE





Ask for a Tax Free form & save up to 15%

ヘルメット

上半身保護部

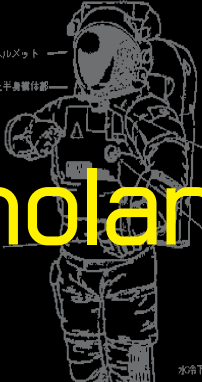
腕部

飲料水/酸素

手袋

足部保護靴

水筒下部



noland

LAUGAVEGI 32
101 REYKJAVIK

J&S Watch co.
REYKJAVIK

Iceland - where time begins!
The Greenwich Meridian line marks the starting point of every time zone in the world. With no daylight savings, Iceland is permanently on GMT or 'Greenwich Mean Time', making it literally the land where time begins.
www.jswatch.com



GILBERT
ÚRSNIDUR
Laugavegi 62 - tel: 551-4100

DEAD



LAUGAVEGUR 29 - BAKHÚS

ALEXANDER  QUEEN

Trilogia

DISCOVER THE ORIGINAL EASTERN TASTE IN THE WEST















INDIAN LUNCH
1090.-
From 11:30-15:00

INDIAN - PAKISTANI CUISINE
AUSTURSTRÆTI 4, Tel: 551 0292 , www.shalimar.is

INDIAN DINNER
1290.-
From 15:00-22:00

Food STUDIO 29

Reviewed by **Nathaniel Keegan**
* * * * *

Studio 29 is a block a way from Hlemmur, just over the line when the colorful tin houses familiar to 101 slowly give way to anonymous concrete buildings, more reminiscent of Eastern Europe than central Reykjavík. That said, Studio 29 (and its affiliate, the Fourth Floor Hotel) does its darndest to escape the encroaching dinginess. With a glass façade and numerous signs inviting you inward in for refuge from the architectural doldrums around you.

Inside, the modern décor strives to push Studio 29 as far as it can towards real restaurant-hood (turns out it's just a buffet and bar). They had a modest selection of cake and sandwiches to take away, a small salad bar, two kinds of soup, and hot dishes under a heat lamp. They all looked well, if not particularly fresh. With the intent to dine in, I picked a meal that included a salad, soup and main course all for 1400 ISK.

The salad bar offered a small, yet mysteriously eclectic choice of items, which were surprisingly difficult to arrange into a salad and not that fresh. I chose the traditional Icelandic lamb

soup with rice, carrots and peas, which came highly recommended. It was simple and pleasing, if thoroughly wilted, having sat simmering in that pot for hours.

I tried both main courses, two vaguely Asian dishes: noodles with chicken, peppers and cabbage, and stewed beef with mushrooms and peppers meant to be put over rice. The beef dish was heavily salted and stewing in its juices all day, the mushrooms were indistinguishable from the peppers from the beef. The noodles were thickly oily, and again the peppers and cabbage provided little variation in flavor. I ate no more of these dishes than I had to.

Studio 29, having just opened in March, is self-admittedly in a transitional stage. As the months press on, it hopes to make steps in becoming a real restaurant, and a spot for fine dining recognized outside the hotel. However despite how very much it tries, Studio 29 is yet a completely unremarkable dining experience. You could try again in a year - maybe this place will have finally found some vigor.



What:
vantar
Where:
Snorrabraut 29
105 Reykjavík
Tel.: 511 3032
How much:
vantar



Flag poles and ticket booths of the fiercely competing whale watching tour operators surround Gamli Baukur in the harbour of Húsavík. Not only is this café-bar-restaurant combo conveniently located for whale watchers, but also it is just about the only option for a prepared meal in town and the surrounding area. With this in mind, Gamli Baukur could probably serve almost anything and still have people pouring in.

The menu combines the usual soup, salad, pizza and burgers with some more ambitious portions of local specialties such as seafood, lamb and reindeer - enough to suit starving travelers and the culinary inclined alike.

We had hamburgers; (Hamborgari Bauksins, 1390 ISK each) Instead of the greasy stereotype we were positively surprised by the luxury model consisting of 200 grams of 100% beef - delicious, perfectly pink in color; meat handpicked from a farmer just a stone's throw away and a pile of other genius things like arugula, red onion and pepper cheese in between a home baked bun. Our burgers were preceded by freshly baked bread and self-made pesto and accompanied by potato wedges and self-made, oh-so-smooth ketchup - it was beautiful, really. And, there was

Food GAMLI BAUKUR

Reviewed by **Sari Peltonen**
* * * * *

no lack in the quantity department either: "I don't know if I ever need or want to eat again" my date expressed of the post meal mood, himself known for his talent in consuming large amounts.

The eye for detail exercised in the kitchen by the Alabamaborn, Akureyri-raised chef Martin Marlin Kelley continued in the beautifully set dinner table by what could have been the best view in town. The house, entirely built of driftwood from the nearby coastlines was candle-lit and decorated with a collection of nautical equipment (think iceberg lights and ship's wheels), provided a cozy setting for the burger fiesta, never mind the "spring weather".

All in all it was an unexpected delight to find a place like Gamli Baukur in the tiny Northern town of Húsavík. They serve excellent food prepared without shortcuts and from a scratch, (yes, the ketchup...but also ice cream, pasta and the like), using local and seasonal ingredients like any other trendy place anywhere in the world, not to mention the attractive price-quality ratio. The overall experience begs the question; why aren't there more places like this along the routes of a traveler in this country?

What:
vantar
Where:
Hafnarstétt 9
640 Húsavík
Tel.: 464 2442
How much:
vantar



Food & Drink | Venue finder

Aktu Taktu

Skúlugata 15
This drive-in destination in 101 Reykjavík is busy day and night and the burgers are especially tasty. The caramel shakes are a local favorite.

American Style

Tryggvagata 26
With a soft bun and lots of veggies, you can settle into a booth and eat for hours. Big portions for authentic American dining.

Argentína Steak-house

Barónstígur
True to its name with tender steaks and flamingly vibrant South American décor. Generous portions, fine wine, liqueurs and cigars make an excellent aout in fine dining.

Austurlandahrað-lestin

Hverfisgata 64A
Though a bit expensive for take-away, it is well worth it for a spicy bite of this Indian cuisine. A few tables to the sine for those who choose to dine in.

Á Næstu Grósum

Laugavegur 20B
Regarded by many to be the best vegetarian place in town, "First Vegetarian" offers a healthy and tasty menu of vegetarian and vegan dishes. Indian theme on Fridays a hit.

B5

Bankastræti 5
By day a chic little bistro with good food and a prime location for Laugavegur people watching - by night a stylish bar with a "whiskey room" and

manhattanesque clientele.

Babalú

Skólavörðustígur 22A
It's tough to miss café Babalú walking up Skólavörðustígur. A cozy place for coffee and cake, the well-worn, homey ambience makes it difficult to leave.

Bæjarins Beztu

Tryggvagata
The oldest fast-food in Iceland, it is feasilby the best hot dog stand in Europe. Don't be intimidated by the perpetual line in front - an absolute must and worth the wait.

Café Cultura

Hverfisgata 18
Situated in the intercultural centre, Cultura is a café/bar with a cosmopolitan feel. The menu features all sorts of international dishes, alongside the staple salad and sandwich.

Café Paris

Austurstræti 14
With an outdoor terrace, this café gets busy on sunny days. With a cosy interior, fine menu and attentive service, it makes a fine spot for evening dining as well.

Café Roma

Rauðarárstígur 8
Roma, an Italian deli and café offers a variety of breads, soups as well as tempting desserts. For a good bargain, come at lunchtime for the specials.

Café Victor

Hafnarstræti 1-3
A hangout for older foreigners, Victor attracts a diverse crowd, both in age and origin,

a rule that extends to the musicians that play there.

Domo

Pinghóltsstræti 5
The brand-new, elegantly decorated Domo serves delicious French-Asian cuisine, excellent sushi and has a great wine list. A sure choice.

Eldsmiðjan

Bragagata 38A
Totally satisfying oven-baked pizza with a wide choice of toppings - snails an unusual specialty. Well worth the cost. Order, take away or eat comfortably among the paintings.

Fiskmarkaðurinn

Aðalstræti 12
Run and co-owned by the national team of chefs, this establishment specializing in Japanese cuisine has everything planned to the last detail, ensuring a relaxing evening.

3 Frakkar

Baldursgata 14
A seriously Icelandic atmosphere and traditional Icelandic dishes prepared in the good old-fashioned way. RSVP and keep your ears pricked for wild whaling tales!

Geysir Bar/Bistro

Aðalstræti 2
Situated in the dignified Geysir Building at the corner of Vesturgata and Aðalstræti, this stylish bistro is always a good place to grab a tasty bite for a reasonable price.

Garðurinn

Klappastígur 37
"Ecstasy's Heart" is a simple, friendly, family-run vegetarian

restaurant on Klapparstígur. Offers an ever-changing menu of specials and soup du jours, alongside a basic menu

Grái Kötturinn

Hverfisgata 16A
Legendary for its early opening ours, the Gray Cat serves amazing breakfasts and coffee that packs a wallop. A splendid way to start you off on your day.

Great Wall Restaurant

Vesturgata 6-8
This new Chinese restaurant features a staggering 100+ dishes in traditional Szechuan, Peking and Cantonese styles. Great service and good food make this one a fine choice.

Grillhúsið

Tryggvagata 20
With a menu of reasonably priced home-style food, Grillhúsið has satiated hungry regulars since 1994 with juicy burgers, sandwiches, steaks and fish dishes.

Hamborgarabúlla

Tómasar ("Bullan")

Geirsgata 1
Considered by some to be the best real hamburger in Reykjavík, "Bullan" does serve some mysteriously delicious burgers, guaranteed to take the edge off any hangover.

Hlöllla Bátar

Ingólfstorg
The first sub sandwich shop in Iceland, Hlöllla Batar has a large selection of creatively named sandwiches with equally imaginative contents. Good for an adventurous bite.

Hornið

Hafnarstræti 15
Since 1979, this Italian restaurant has been a longtime Reykjavík staple. Famous for its pizza and stuffed calzones, it proudly offers an affordable menu of high-quality dishes

Hótel Holt

Bergstaðarstræti 37
Housing Iceland's most renowned restaurant, The Gallery, an evening here is an unforgettable experience. Delicious French-inspired cuisine and fine wines await.

Humarshúsið

Ammtmannstígur 1
One of the oldest restaurants in the country, the lobster house is known of course for its lobster and also its impressive cognac lounge. Fine intimate dining.

Hressó

Austurstræti 20
With a spacious neutral interior and a varied lunch menu, Hressó attracts no specific type of crowd. Tap beer and music makes a fair hangout on weekends.

Icelandic Fish & Chips

Tryggvagata 8
Not your average fish'n'chips joint, but a healthy restaurant using only organic vegetables and quality fish products. The spiced skyr side a special treat.

Indian Mango

Frakkarstígur 12
Specializing in delicious dishes from the Goa region of India, honed to perfection in the owner's period as head chef at the Four

Seasons. Incredible service as well as food.

Jómfrúin

Lækjargata 4
These days, good Smörrebröd can be an elusive delicacy. Lucky for us out in the colonies, it's alive and well at Jómfrúin with fresh eel imported specially from Denmark.

Kaffi Hljómaland

Laugavegur 21
This organic, free-trade café prides itself not only on great lunches and food but being a strong cultural center, hosting live music as well as lectures and poetry nights.

Kaffitár

Bankastræti 8
Kaffitár celebrates good coffee, and serves it in abundance, along with sweet treats and tasty if pricy special blends. Eat in or to go, a great way to enjoy your morning boost.

Kaffivagninn

Grandagarður 10
By the harbor, this lunch and coffee place is a gathering place for all sorts of tough folks. If you want traditional Icelandic food, a great place to see another side of Reykjavík.

Kofi Tómasar

Frændu Laugavegur 2
Nested in a basement location, Uncle Tom's Cabin has the feeling of a back-alley London Café. On weekends it becomes a happening and diverse bar.

Krua Thai

Tryggvagata 14
We dare you to find a better meal for the same price anywhere else. Every dish is

delicious. Just eat what looks best to you on their colorful menu.

La Primavera

Austurstræti 9
Though it sounds strange, La Primavera serves delicious traditional North Italian cuisine using only local produce. A startlingly tasty combination and a local favorite.

Mokka

Skólavörðustígur 3A
Operating since 1958, Mokka is the city center's oldest coffee joint and founder of Icelandic coffee culture. Regular art exhibits are always worth a look.

Nonnabiti

Hafnarstræti 9
"Nonna" is one of the more popular junk-food places in town, renowned for its greasy sandwiches and its unique Nonni-sauce. Open late for a midnight cravings.

O Sushi

Lækjargata 2A
Also called "The Train", O Sushi's most intriguing feature is a conveyor belt that runs around the entire restaurant delivering a buffet of authentic sushi straight to your table.

Pizza King

Hafnarstræti 18
This little place serves not only the cheapest but largest slices downtown. A local favorite, and open until 6 on Friday and Saturday nights.

Pizza Pronto

Vallarstræti 4
With a convenient location and late hours, a good place to snack

in between bars. Three sizes of pizza with a good selection of toppings. A cheap, if unhealthy, choice.

Prikið

Bankastræti 12
Part of the Reykjavík bar scene for decades, this café/bar has a fairly cheap menu and attracts a mix of students and old regulars. Mostly R&B and Hip-Hop on weekends.

Raðhúskaffi

Tjarmargata 11
Located in the City Hall with a great view of the pond, this café has a good selection of pastries and a good place to relax. Regular art exhibits add to the aesthetic.

Sægreifinn

Verbuð 8, Geirsgata
Right next to the harbor, Sægreifinn fish shop is like none other in the country. With a diverse fish selection, exquisite lobster soup and good service, an absolute must-try.

Segafredo

Lækjartorg
The Italian coffee chain makes its way to Lækjartorg Square, bringing strong espresso and Italian lunch snacks to grab on the way to work or just to enjoy on the spot.

Shalimar

Austurstræti 4
Shalimar sports the conceit of being the northernmost Indian restaurant in the world and has fine daily specials. We recommend the quite addictive chicken tikka masala.

Sjávarkjallarinn

Aðalstræti 2
Elegant Seafood Cellar

focuses on gourmet seafood and tantalizing asian-fusion dishes. Share the exotic menu, courses selected by the chef, with a friend for the most fun.

Sólon

Bankastræti 7a
Truly a jack-of-all trades establishment. Nice views of the pond and outdoor dining in the summertime. The lamb comes especially recommended.

Vegamót

Vegamótastígur 4
Vegamót's kitchen is open until 22.00 daily and sports an appealing lunch menu. Come for a tasty brunch on weekends. If you like Óliver, try Vegamót and vice versa.

Við Tjörnina

Templarasund 3
A Reykjavík classic with menu exclusively of traditional cuisine, as frequented by tourists as it is by locals. A perfect opportunity to try Icelandic delicacies.

Vítabar

Bergþórugata 21
Really a bar, but best known for its hamburgers. Burger and fries for 500 one of the best deals in town, but Forget-Me-Not blue cheese and Garlic Extravaganza are also winners.

Vor

Laugavegur 24
Though perhaps a typical off-lobby restaurant/bar/café, don't let it fool you! It's run by an award-winning chef and has a tip-top menu - a wonderful culinary experience.

Tíu Dropar

Laugavegur 27

Our latest...
Releases

Special offers
in
Eymundsson



Benni Hemm Hemm -
Murta st. Calunga **Out now!**



Múgsefjun -
Skiptar skoðanir **Out now!**



Grjóthrun í Hólshreppi -
Grjóthrun **Out now!**

Check out our Webstore...

www.kimirecords.net



**the Best Burger
in Town!***

By JONATHAN FINER
THE WASHINGTON POST

Check it out

Hamborgarabullan, Geirsgata
5, Reykjavik, 011-354-511-1888.

As we left, we asked the women seated near us whether there was anywhere else around that could rival Saegreifinn for value. "Right next door," one told us, "is the best hamburger in Reykjavik."

That was all we needed to hear. The next day we went back to the waterfront for a late lunch.

Hamborgarabullan (Ham-

burger Joint) was a stark contrast to the Old World authenticity of the night before. The walls were plastered with pictures of the Blues Brothers and John Mellencamp. Large windows framed panoramic views of the wharf. At 8 p.m. the place was jammed with locals.

We ordered a cheeseburger, a veggie burger and fries from the counter, along with a milkshake. ("If I only have one more milkshake the rest of my life, it should be vanilla," the co-owner, Orn Hreinsson, told us. We took his advice.) Wrapped in wax paper and nestled in wicker baskets, the food was as good as the price, less than \$30.

Hreinsson, who also helps cook and run the register, said he opened Hamborgarabullan soon after a trip to New York City four years ago during which he ate every night at a Midtown place called Burger Joint.

Iceland, of course, is about far more than the food. We spent most of our time exploring its otherworldly geology of geysers, crater lakes and hot springs. Still, it's hard to beat a good meal at a good price. With a bit of work, we found two of them.

*An excerpt from the article: "Bargain meals can be elusive in Iceland's capital"

**EXPECT
HANG
OVERS...**

NASA

THE BIGGEST CLUB IN
DOWNTOWN REYKJAVIK.
LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND.
WWW.NASA.IS

**Woolens factory store,
located in Vík**

**Genuine woolen goods,
made in Iceland**

**Also wide selection
of souvenirs**

Víkurprjón ehf
Phone: 487-1250
www.vikwool.is



Music
A FREE EP FROM
SINGAPORE SLING

Now, put it in your stereo, press play and listen up. The EP is called Godman, after its first track, and it is brought to you courtesy of the Reykjavík Grapevine in conjunction with Singapore Sling. Now, welcome to the world premiere of material from Sling's still-unnamed third album, to be released in Iceland via MDM records this fall. Godman will be featured on the TBA album, while b-sides Hope and the Bacon and Evil Madness remixes of Godman are exclusive to this limited edition of 500 EP. And count yourself lucky if you're reading this, because 50.000 Grapevine readers never will – the limited run EP is only featured in Grapevine copies distributed to select locations. Congratulations!

Sling frontman Henrik Björnsson says of Godman that the song should give some idea what the band's tentative album will sound like. And he is happy to give it to you for free: "I like the idea of giving it away like this, instead of just posting it on the internet or something. This gives you something tangible, which is fun, and the timing is good, it being the Grapevine's fifth anniversary and all. Nobody releases singles around here anymore, so we might as well give it away. Nobody would buy it."

If you are reading on this issue's day of publication, gear yourself up for a ball, as Singapore Sling are celebrating the release of this EP with a concert at Organ tonight. Björnsson says we can expect a classic Sling show, and that the band will be showcasing a lot of new material.

So comb your hair, lace your boots, tune in to Godman and soak up the reverb-drenched fuzzbombs that Singapore Sling so consistently deliver. In the immortal words of some drunk dude I met at a concert: "If you like rock 'n' roll, you'll love Singapore Sling." 🍷

» *What to do
and when:*

*Your best source
for listings, info
and entertainment
opens June 20. 2008.*

» *www.grapevine.is*



www.handknit.is

Buy directly
from the people
who make them

The Handknitting
Association of Iceland



- Skólavörðustígur 19 tel.: 552 1890
- Radisson SAS, Hótel SAGA tel.: 562 4788
- Laugavegur 64 tel.: 562 1890

*Taste the
best of Iceland*

...with a little bit of spanish thrown in!

There are over 70 courses on our Tapas menu so drop by and indulge in our excellent food in the greatest of atmosphere.

KITCHEN OPEN:
TO 23:30 ON WEEKDAYS
01.00 ON WEEKENDS

**GREAT TAPAS
FROM KR. 550.-**



TEL: 551-2344
TAPAS@TAPAS.IS
ADDRESS:
VESTURGATA 3B
101 REYKJAVÍK

ICELAND'S VERY FIRST TAPAS-BAR

PIZZARIA

WOOD FIRED PIZZA



Probably the best
Fish & Chips in the world*

**KEBAB
HÚSIÐ**

Fish & Chips
only **kr. 1.100**



AUSTURSTRÆTI 3
101 Reykjavík
tel. 534 5720

Living Museum by the Sea



Víkin
Reykjavík
Maritime Museum

Open daily from 11am to 5pm
Closed Mondays

Víkin

Grandagarði 8 - 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 517 9400



www.sjominjasafn.is



Whale Watching from Reykjavík

Take part in an adventure at sea with an unforgettable trip into the world of whales and sea birds. Conveniently located in Reykjavík's Old harbour, a three hour tour can bring you up close to whales in their natural habitat.

Free entry to the Information Centre for our passengers.

Call us on **555 3565**
or visit **www.elding.is**

Puffin season							
April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	
9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00
13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00
		17:00	17:00	17:00			



Elding
adventure at sea



June 17 celebrations. Candy for the kids. Photo by GAS

Classifieds

Classified ads are free for individuals! If you want to place a classified ad, email class@grapevine.is



LÁ ART

MUSEUM

Hveragerði

Open daily 12-18

Admission free

www.listasafarnesinga.is

Accommodation

Hótel Vík

Tel: 588-5588

Email: lobby@hotelvik.is

www.hotelvik.is

One of the best 3 star hotels in Reykjavík.

Bakki, Laugarbakka

Tel: 4512987 / 6163304

Email: elinborg8@msn.com

Quiet surroundings, only one kilometer from Highway 1, Rooms, Sleeping Bag Accommodation and Camping w/electricity Mini-Market and Cafe Angling sold for lakes in Arnarvatnsheiði

Hótel Varmahlíð

Tel: 00354538170

info@hotelvarmahlid.is

www.hotelvarmahlid.is

A small comfortable hotel of 19 rooms with private facilities and a restaurant concentrating on local cuisine from the Skagafjörður region.

Dimmuborgir Guesthouse

Geitýjarströnd 1, 660 Mývatn

4644210

dimmuborgir@emax.is / www.dimmuborgir.is

Located right next to the peacefull lake Mývatn, surrounded by Icelands most popular wonders of natur, the Dimmuborgir Guesthouse offers room and nice cottages for a resonable price.

Húnaver

Tel: 4527110, email: hunaver@visir.is

Húnaver is a nice campingplace 25km away from Blönduós. We have a big campingplace with washingfacilities and electricity for caravans. We also offer sleepingbag accomodation for up to 40 people. There is also a playground and a footballfield in Húnaver. We also have a little pettingzoo here, and its possible to



Your affordable Quality bed in the city!

Private en-suites and shared dorm rooms for 4-6 pers.

Prices from 1850ISK | Open 24hrs

In Laugardalur, next to the pool and campsite, 10mins from down town/BSI with bus 14

Free WiFi | Kitchen | Laundry | Flybus pick up

(+354)553 8110

reykjavikcity@hostel.is

www.hostel.is



GULA VILLAN

GUESTHOUSE

GULA VILLAN

Pingvallastræti 14 / Brekkugata 8

600 Akureyri, Sími: 896 8464

gulavillan@nett.is

www.gulavillan.is

try the horses on a field for some rounds.

Prices: Camping per night for 1 person 400 ISK, Electricity 200 ISK, Kitchen use inside 300 ISK, Sleepingback accomodation 1000 ISK, Pettingzoo 300 ISK.

Gesthús Dúna

Suðrhlíð 35,

105 Reykjavík

Tel: 5882100 / Fax: 5882102

Duna@islandia.is, ghduna@simnet.is

www.islandia.is/duna

B&B ROOMS FROM 5.000.- SLEEPNG BAG ACCOMMODATION

Apartment for rent in Reykjavik.

Sleeps 4. Price 130 Eur. per night. Info: www.reykjavikwest.com.

Phone 820 3640

Your home on holiday



HOTEL

Jamnes

Tel: 4386893 Grundarfjörður

single, double, triple, family room, studio, apartment, sleeping bag in dormitory

Guesthouse Aurora

Freyjugata 24

101 Reykjavik-Iceland

Tel: (00354) 899-1773 / (00354) 552-5515

book@aurorahouse.is / www.aurorahouse.is



For sale:

Italian Leather Sofa 3x2x1 with Center and coffee table 7 months old

Washing Machine, Microwave

Daihatsu Sirion 4WD

Audi A8

Computers, Printers and office tables

All things are in top condition, if intersted Please call 8476602.

Car for sale. VW Polo 2000, 1.4L Manual.152,000 Km.Well maintained. New time belt, new sparks, Summer and Winter tyres. Price: 470,000 ISK / negotiable. Please call 8240310 or E-mail sverrir@dino.is

The monastic shop “Klausturvörur” is a store specializing in cosmetics, delicatessen and artifacts made by nuns and monks in monasteries across Europe. Herb teas, honeys, jams, chocolate, creams, perfumes, shampoo, soaps - unique in Iceland! Garðastræti 17 101 Reykjavík tel.

TEN THOUSAND FINGERS



More than ten thousand fingers have played beautiful music on this piano, since it arrived in Eyrbakkavíki in 1871. It was brought across the Atlantic on a large merchantman, then hauled into a small fishing boat and rowed ashore, where four strong men carried it into the village in a terrible rainstorm. But you can touch it now in the Húsið museum in Eyrbakkavíki.

HÚSIÐ Á EYRABAKKA

The Southeast Museum

Open May 15th - Sept. 15th: 11 - 18. Other times by arrangement. | www.husid.com



WOMEN'S SHELTER

tel. 561-1205

Hótel Djúpavík, Árneshreppi

The eastfjords of the Westfjords

Tel: 451-4037

djupavik@snorpa.is | www.djupavik.is

Historic Exhibition (of Djúpavík), sleepingbag acc., kayak rental, hiking, tranquility.

551 5445 Opening hours: monday-friday 12-7, saturday 12-6

Job needed:

Photographer with experience. Family pictures, individual photo shoots, children photography, weddings, other memorial moments and low price. Please check my pictures on <http://picasaweb.google.pl/lukaszsalata>. Contact at chrumm@interia.pl or by phone: 6174321

My name is tory and i am a 30 year old Australian who loves Iceland, (almost more than the font helvetica.) i am looking to work in Iceland for the summer. i work in the festival + music realm, but before that I have worked in publishing and arts. i love to bake and sew, and make homemade cordial. Please let me know if you would like to adopt me for the summer - torybauer1@mac.com

Education:

PRIVATE ITALIAN LANGUAGE LESSONS

Do you want to learn quickly Italian before you go to your summer vacation? My teaching method is based on everyday conversation with add of grammer. I am free to meet at your preferred place - home, work, caffe - any time! Just register on bellaitalia@visir.is or call Paola 857 4143!

Qualified English teacher (native British speaker) available for private lessons. Masters Degree Applied Linguistics and TESOL qualified (University of Cambridge). Call Russell 849 7337 or e mail: russelldalderesson@hotmail.com for further details

Personals:

Looking for a penfriend, preferably an Icelandic woman between the age of 45 and 60. I live in north Queensland, Australia, and I am a family person. I would prefer the old fashioned method of correspondence. My address: 18 Cedarbrook Terrace, IDALIA, TOWNSVILLE 4811, North Queensland,Australia. Thanks. Denise Moore denise@townsvilleofficefurniture.com.au

Other:

I am a native British speaker and qualified PA with more than 10 years experience across a variety of business sectors, working at senior manager and director level. I am currently learning Icelandic and would be willing to consider working in exchange for help building my verbal and written skills. Please contact Linda Barton at email: reykjavik@btinternet.com



allseasonhotels.is

DISCOVER SOUTH ICELAND

WELCOME TO US!

Special offer for 2 persons

Bring in or mention this ad to any of our hotels and receive a 10% discount on room Rack Rates and A La Carte Menu at Allseason Hotels

Valid During June 2008

*Not valid with any other offers

phone +354.487.5700

email hotelranga@hotelranga.is



Ranga Skogar Highland Hrauneyjar

The Finest Sandwiches in
downtown of Reykjavík



SANDHOLT
REYKJAVÍK



www.sandholt.is

* Laugavegi 36 * Tel: 551 3524 * Open Mon. - Fri 7.30 - 18.15, Saturday 7.30 -17.30, Sunday 8.30-17.00. *

specialized Restaurant in Seafood

A great restaurant that specializes in excellent seafood dishes both for lunch and evening dining.

Be pleasantly surprised...!

www.galleryfiskur.is

Nethylur 2, 110 Rvk., Tel. 587 2882

100 m. from The Reykjavik City Museum Arbaejaarsafn

**Gallery
fiskur**

Restaurant: Open mon.- fri. 11:30am - 03:00pm, Thu.- sat. 18:00pm - 10:00pm, sun. closed



ALVAR AALTO
DIMENSIONS ON WOOD
Summer 2008



The "Alvar A" dining room is open
Mon - Fri 10:00 to 17:00
Saturday - Sunday, 12:00 to 17:00
Special events/occasions - open until
22:00 hours (check website for details)

Norræna húsið / The Nordic House
Saemundargata (in the Iceland
University quarters of the city)
Tel: +354 551 7030
www.nordice.is



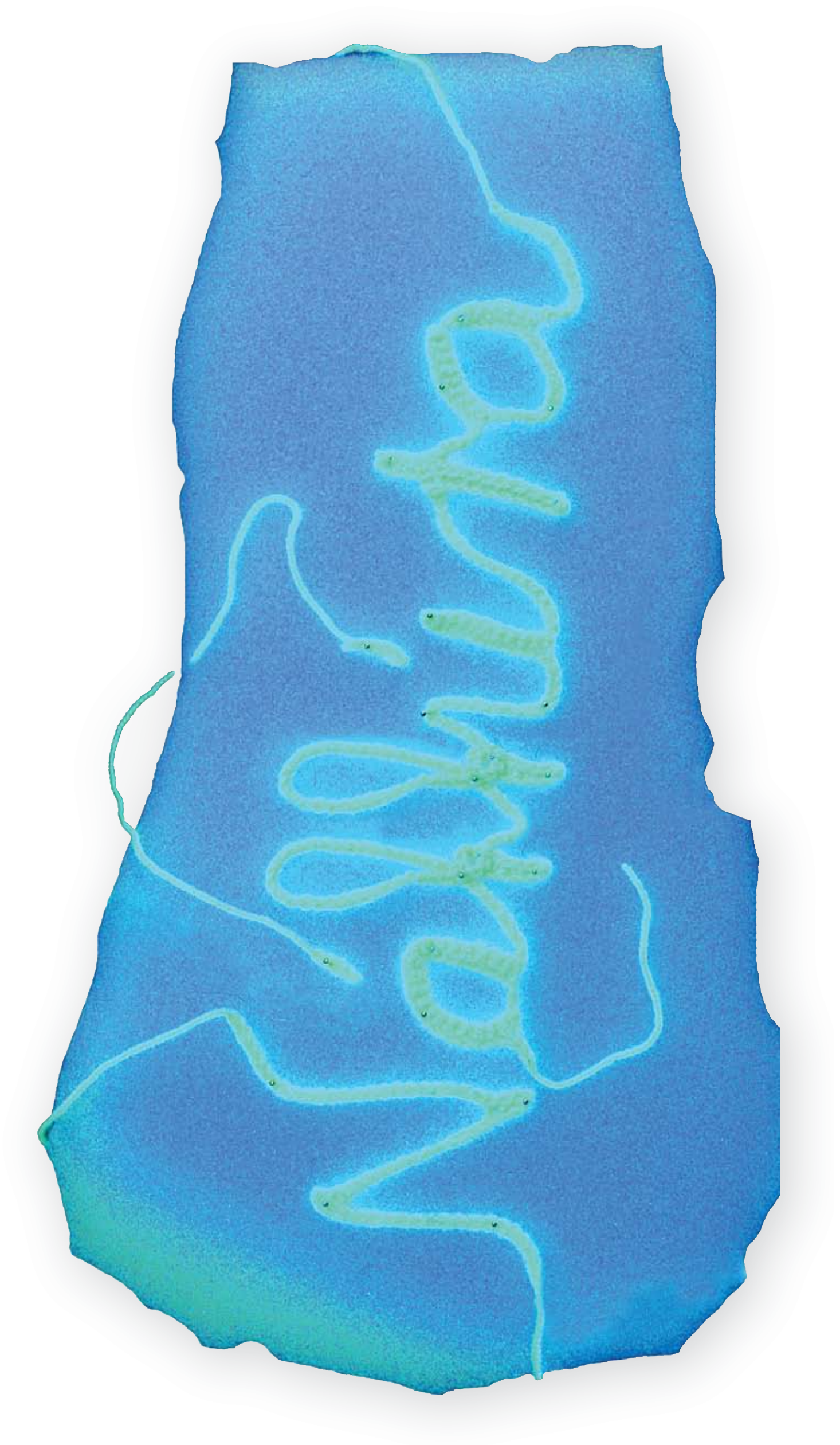
NORDIC HOUSE - KNOWLEDGE AND DESIGN



ný ep. "godman" útgafutonleikar,

INWORLD

ORIGAM



28. JÚNÍ Í LAUGARDAL

by björk guðmundsdóttir:

an icelandic senator has called me childish because i want to protect nature , which i find peculiar because i actually find it so incredibly childish , when the whole world is holding its breath because global warming might kill all the humans within 50-100 years, to increase our co2 emission by 19 tons per capita, which places us in third place worldwide, just after australia and the u.s.a. 10 of those 19 tons are caused by the three already existing aluminium plants. do we aim at even more, if we build more aluminium plants, at húsavík and helgúvík ? will we be at the top ? will we be the worlds top polluters ? childish or grown-up ? questionable ... ? the already existing plants will stay, that cannot be changed. nonetheless i find it strange that we sell this energy at a third of what alcoa pays in europe and america. we could afford to have three times less power plants if we got the right share of the profit. at the same time, we export everything raw and unprocessed instead of designing and producing useful things we could brand as “made in iceland”. why dont we produce these things before we go on smelting ?

why are we, just like when fishing cod , only interested in the first step, i.e. providing the raw material, instead of processing it all the way ? why are we still playing the part of the colony ? whether it is for the danes, the u.s. army or alcoa, we dont get much in exchange. Isnt it childish to sell oneself that cheap ? the senator mentions “ the brutal withdrawal of the army “ why should alcoa not become as brutal some time in the future ? most of the icelanders who were employed by the army have now found a new job, and we should be glad they did. jónas frá hrifla once said that halldór laxness was childish, because of his views on nature conservation. laxness fought for the protection of gullfoss, the golden waterfall. was prime minister ólafur thors also childish, because he granted the u.s. army permission for only one military base, when they were asking for four ? sure, they would have rewarded us and paved road nr 1 all around iceland, and we would have then “gained” quite a lot that way. but then iceland would have followed the cold war in its fall, and been hurt by brutal unemployment. we would have been unable of attempting anything without asking first the u.s. for permission. not unlike the dependency of greenlanders on denmark today.

why should we stay so dependable on others ? i think it is childish. maybe the senator thinks the icelanders struggle for independence was childish. was jón sigurðsson, our national hero, just a romantic dreamer when he said that icelanders should take everything in their own hands, which is of course the much harder way : to care for the grass root , to start from scratch and build up a whole country takes a long time, why should we bother when it is so easy to let the danes/us/alcoa take care of us ? i wish to point out to the senator that i know a few things about grass root , contrary to his statement . mine is a nearly 30 year experience . from the very start, when we were offered contracts by skifan and steinar, we decided to do everything ourselves and to this day i never sold myself. the sugarcubes could have accepted big offers from big companies, but we never wanted to belong to others or owe them anything.

i have always refused to do commercials . i have met many foreign musicians who had a similar job to mine in terms of fame and record sales, and at one point got tempted and signed the “big contract” : in doing so they sold their independence, and when things weren’t going too well , they could not get anything published or they had to write music under orders from the record companies . we have all heard many stories like that . it is not good to put oneself into such a weak position, to have to obey others.

senator , you are right when you say that i dont know what it is to be unemployed in a small village out in the country, but i do know what it is to start a small company, to take care of it and believe in it when nobody else does, and resist to the temptation of selling oneself to larger companies when things just start taking off, one has to go on watering and persevere through the difficult times in order to deserve the fruit when they finally come. one has to protect one’s plant during all those years, until it reaches full growth. your plant will not be healthy and unique if you havent had the patience to take care of it meticulously . it is then necessary to defend purity , refuse corruption and temptations, such as “short cuts” into “big time”, and i can assure you that building one of the biggest aluminium plants in the world with alcoa is one of those “short cuts”. i can smell it .

i wish to point out to the senator that i come back to iceland more than once a year. since 1993, i have spent half of my time here ; the members of sigur rós still live here, and it is worth a mention that they built a recording studio in mosfell, and have created and recorded most of their music there.

when i said that icelands image was important for icelanders who are working abroad, i was not thinking about myself or sigur rós. i’m not worried about us. i have in mind all the other export goods such as skyr, water, fish, bio lamb meat, tourism, geothermal experience ; even our president, the honourable ólafur ragnar grímsson, has started giving lectures abroad about icelands green energy. and not to mention what could happen if we do manage to stay green. in my opinion, there are so much more possibilities for us to survive if we do so . we could for instance sell bio vegetables grown with geothermal energy, health products, cosmetics, dairy products and so on and so on.

but what i essentially believe in is the imagination of this nation . If you give it a chance it will think of more fertile things than smelters . in that field also , senator , i do have some experience. icelandic music which was just an imitation of foreign music was never successful abroad . art and business have that in common : original thinking helps.

prime minister geir haarde was recently rewarded by newsweek as the greenest prime minister in the world. if we build more aluminium plants we will not be greenest any more. we will become one of the biggest smelting pots in the world and, per capita, the most polluting nation on earth. many business opportunities will be ruled out. many companies have already announced that they will in the future deal exclusively with green businesses and countries. our chances to cooperate with google, for instance, will fade away if we dont take the green stance .

because unfortunately we cannot be green and non-green at the same time. látrabjarg, the largest bird colony in europe, could become a successful natural park. the inhabitants of that region have shown a keen interest. but they intend to allow a oil refinery as well. those simply do not work together. if we harness all the rivers, all the reproduction areas of the cod would be disturbed, perhaps irremediably. the choice for us is : cod or dams ?

there is another thing , senator , i have always considered as very childish : to have such a uniform economic system in such a small country. how often did we get burned , for instance when everybody was fishing herring, and when the herring disappeared the economy collapsed ; do you remember when everybody wanted to open video rental shops and half of them went bankrupt (the tanning booth craze is memorable ...) we can possibly cope with the three already existing aluminium plants, anyway we have to ; but why not go for diversity and create the lacking jobs from so many other fields ? without selling ones soul to a company which ignores human rights, produces weapons and is on black lists in many parts of the world.

there was no 1 miracle solution when icelanders began their struggle for independence. nor is there any now . fertile , creative societies are not the product of uniform solutions.

you might be right, senator , when you as a proud countryman do not to listen to the advice of a 101 reykjavík arty kernel (anyway she is never in iceland, she is always just drinking champagne with foreigners abroad) but why do you then have to kneel down to alcoa, if you are so independent and self-sufficient ? moreover, i think its no longer right to connect this pro-con aluminium quarrel to some alleged countryside-city antagonism. the situation is not black and white, because in recent years all kinds of companies have started outside reykjavík. small grassroots beginnings, but will continue to grow , who can foresee the results after 5 years ? 10 years ? think about the húsavík whale centre, musicians all over the country, the scholars at hólur, villimey in the west fjords, geoplank in grindavík, vogaffjós in the mývatn district, the bird collection at mývatn, hvildarklettur sea angling in the west, the settlement centre at borgarnes, the sorcery and witchcraft museum strandagaldur in strandasýsla, the rapidly expanding akureyri university, the pirate museum at patreksfjörður, the aldrei fór ég suður festival at isafjörður, skálanes and lunga at seyðisfjörður . i would love to hear more from those people .

a lot of scientists think solar energy is the future. why not do some research in that field and join the pioneers ?

many things have already been accomplished : for instance the blue lagoon (obtaining the licence for running the business took 10 years, it was considered too utopian), icelandair, össur, marel, marorka, whale watching and museum at húsavík and 3x steel at isafjörður. CCP employs today 350 people thanks to a video game idea one individual got 10 years ago. let us not forget the carbon fibre plant at sauðárkrókur, which will create 60 new jobs. minimal pollution and visionary ! (planes will be made of carbon fibre instead of aluminium). these, and others are in the grassroots, and will grow and thrive for a whole century ; and we havent of course listed everything yet, because as jón sigurðsson knew, as ólafur thors knew also, and halldór laxness and all of us icelanders know, just by placing our hand on our hearts , whether we are for aluminium plants or for the protection of nature, what is most beneficial for the icelandic nation is what we build things ourselves from scratch, although it is much more difficult and takes much more time than if we do it in the service of foreigners.

our harvest lies there .

ÁLVER Í HELGUVÍK?



Sogin í Trölladyngju. Þarna er mikil litasínfónía. Þetta svæði er íhættu eins og Krýsuvík. Tilraunaboranir hafa ekki gefið góðan árangur. Hugmynd Landsnets gengur út á að fara með háspennulinuna yfir Sveifluhálsinn, ofan í Ketilstíginn, eina vinsælustu gönguleiðina á Reykjaneskaga, yfir Móhásadal og upp í Trölladyngju, þar sem finna má náttúruperluna Sog.



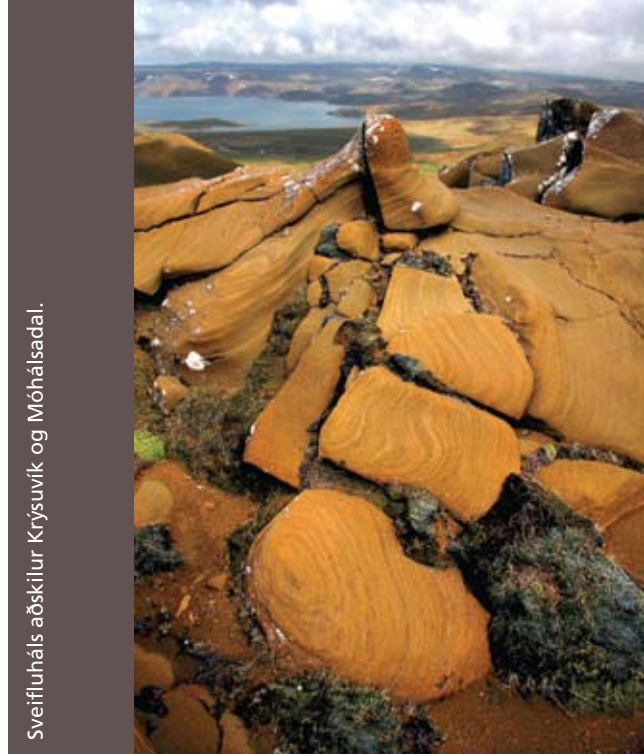
Frá litríku hverasvæðinu í Seltúni sem fjölmargir ferðamenn heimsækja.

Ellert Grétarsson, ljósmyndari og blaðamaður á Reykjanesi, hóf markvisst að vinna í að ljósmynda Krýsuvíkursvæðið í fyrri- vor í þeim tilgangi að vekja athygli á þessari útivistarparadis en hann óttast að honum takist ekki að safna efni í ljósmyndabók áður en helstu náttúruperlurnar verða virkjunarframkvæmdum að bráð. “Þeir eru að fara bora. Hitaveita Suðurnesja eru komnir með rannsóknarleyfi á fjórum stöðum útaf álveri í Helguvík, og það á að byrja á allavega tveimur stöðum, Baðstofunni og Austurengjahver. Svo ætla Landsnet að leggja háspennu- linur yfir vinsælasta hverasvæðið. Þetta er ein vinsælasta gönguleiðin og hverasvæðin eru náttúruperlur sem bjóða upp á endalausar fegurð í þeirri litadýrð sem einkenna þau. Það á að rústa þeim náttúruperlum sem hvað mest er varið í hér á Reykjaneskaganum og enginn segir neitt.”

Vinsælt útivistarsvæði
“Þetta er eitt vinsælasta útivistarsvæðið í nágrenni við þétt- býlustu byggð landsins og þessu á að breyta í iðnaðarsvæði. Það er skritið með tilliti til þess að áhugi á náttúrunni og útivist hefur stórukað síðustu ár, í dag eru að mæta um 100 manns í gönguferðir á þessu svæði. Áhugi á náttúruskoðun á Reykja- nesskaga er greinilega mikil og eykst sífellt. Svæðið frá Krýsuvík yfir í Trölladyngju er kjörlandi útivistarunnenda og gönguleiðir þar mjög vinsælar, maður hefur á tilfinningunni að vera mjög fjarri mannabyggðum, þó svæðið sé aðeins steinsnar frá mesta þéttbýlissvæði landsins. Það er ekki síst sú tilfinning sem gerir svæðið mjög heillandi, fyrir utan stórbrotna náttúru þess.”



Náttúrufergurð á fyrirhuguðu virkjunarsvæði við Austurengjahver.



Sveifluháls aðskilur Krýsuvík og Móhásadal.

NATURE.IS – AN ECO-CONSCIOUS NETWORK

The idea for Nature.is was born during the 'lost' fight for the preservation of Kárahnjúkar during the winter of 2002-3 and has been developing ever since. The idea is based on the fact that by raising environmental awareness and the environmental participation of the general consumer, it is possible to use the market forces to solve many of the complex environmental issues that the world faces today, whether they are local or global. The web is designed to be educational, fun and practical for anyone and for any age, whether tourists or natives. Visual artist Guðrún Tryggvadóttir is the entrepreneur of Nature.is and a large group of specialists and artists have taken part in developing the network. The Icelandic version, "Náttúran.is", has been running a little over a year but the English version is just getting ready and will be 'up and running' by mid-summer 2008, including Green pages and a Green map of Iceland.

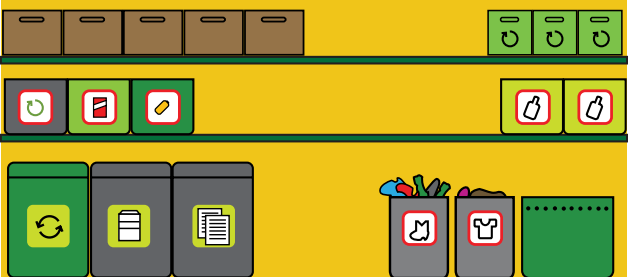
FRUIT



Fresh fruit is often suspiciously beautiful and smooth. It is not only that the ugly fruit has been sorted away; a lot of fruit has been sprayed and washed with insecticides to make it look better. Organic fruit, on the other hand, is not washed with insecticides. No drugs or preventive chemicals have been used and only an organic fertiliser has been provided. Additionally, the environmental impact of such production is significantly reduced and much more positive in all aspects. Still, only when the product is certified by a recognised certifier can the consumer trust that the product is wholly organic. Within the European Commission (EC) there is a directive that specifies what constitutes organic foods. It is forbidden to promote and put on the market goods as organic unless they fulfil the strong requirements of the said directive. The certifier in Iceland, 'Tún', is a member of 'IFOAM', an international organisation that certifies organic foods. The difference between the organic and ecological cultivation of fruit is that the use of synthetic fertiliser is not allowed nor the use of traditional chemicals in organic cultivation. Ecological cultivation is really ordinary farming where the use of some chemicals and synthetic fertilisers is allowed, although in modest amounts. Ecological farming is quality controlled, whereas ordinary farming and the quality control are in the hands of federations of farmers and farmers' unions – people who may not have the best interests of the consumer at heart.

www.nature.is

RECYCLING



What used to be defined as waste or garbage is today seen as valuable raw material or a useful resource for new production. Waste and garbage is nothing else than a valuable resource in the wrong place. Almost everything can be reused or recycled. The key, if it is possible, is to sort waste in the right way right from the beginning. The wrong classification of waste can result in the impossibility of reuse or recycling. By using recycling, the need for landfills decreases which diminishes the risk of soil pollution. Landfilling is also expensive, and while that cost is not directly reflected in the price of products we are still paying for it through taxes to the municipality. However, from the beginning it would be best of all to avoid buying and thereby unnecessarily create waste. What do we mean by buying waste? How often do we buy plastic bags and packaging which end up in the wastebasket as soon as we get home? In order to facilitate the classification of content and of the packaging of the various products which can be bought in the Nature-market, various recycling categories are shown for each product. Here under the topic 'Recycling' you can also find various aids for recycling and reuse.

www.nature.is

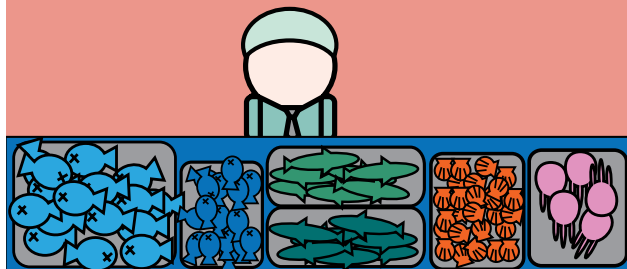
HEALTH PRODUCTS



Health products are products which promote better health. It is rather difficult to define today what is a health product and what isn't. There are a great variety of health products and the term health itself is sometimes rather broad. What is healthy for one individual is not necessarily healthy for another. For instance, the needs of pregnant women are vastly different from the needs of adult males. Assertions on packaging are checked by the Environmental Authority and the Pharmaceutical Authority. Here at Nature.is, all of the information shown on the packaging is listed. Health products can be taken orally or topically (used on skin). In the 'Health Products' section it is possible to find many products, because nature itself provides a great variety of herbs, seafood and trace minerals that promote better health. Some of these products are based on traditional usage which have been tested by time, while others are based directly on modern scientific research. Always consult a doctor if your symptoms are serious or if you are suffering from a disease.

www.nature.is

SEAFOOD



Fish is a beneficial source of protein and vitamins. It also contains Omega-3 fatty acids which prevent disease and strengthen the immune system. There are some international standards that exist in regard to ecological fish or ecological fishing, such as the Marine Stewardship Council Certification and the Swedish certification KRAV, which will soon be available for smaller fishing-boats in Iceland. Some companies have introduced their own standard about ecological fishing, and therein it is usually specified just how large a part of the population the overall catch can be, depending on the fishing method used and the amount of energy used per catch. In this regard fishing, where the fish "chooses" to be caught, is more environmentally friendly than the more brutal use of fishing nets or trawlers. Generally speaking it is assumed that one litre of fuel is required for each kg of fish caught. From an energy saving standpoint in modern fishing, more energy is being used to collect a smaller amount of energy. Unfortunately, lipophilic, and organically persistent chemicals like PCB, have the somewhat disturbing habit of migrating from warm latitudes to colder latitudes. That's why these chemicals bioaccumulate more easily in organisms at northern latitudes than in the tropics. Usually chemicals that bioaccumulate have little impact at the lowest step of the food chain. However, as we go higher up in the food chain, the chemicals accumulate and their impact increases. This is the reason why polar bears and killer whales have relatively high levels of chemicals like PCB in their bodies. People, like polar bears and whales, sit at the top of the food chain and can thus be vulnerable.

www.nature.is

CLOTHES AND FOOTWEAR



Clothing is necessary for us humans and it can be said that clothes are always close to our heart. Our skin is in contact with the clothing fabric and therefore it is important to consider what, in fact, we are wearing. Many colorants and dyes and clothing production processes include the processing of fabric with acids and toxins which may be harmful to our health. Also, the production of clothing can have serious environmental consequences and influence on the health of factory workers (and perhaps even the neighbourhood and beyond). Some chemicals are more environmentally friendly than others. Cotton is one of the most harmful materials used in clothing because of the amount of toxins used during cultivation. For each kg of cultivated cotton you need one kg of toxic chemicals. On the other hand, if organic cotton is chosen (IFOAM) then the use of toxins is highly restricted as is the use of harmful chemicals. Fair trade is a confirmation of the fact that the clothing is produced in an ethically responsible way without affecting the health of workers and without financially exploiting personnel. Clothing lasts longer if it is looked after and shoes which are brushed and shined can last for many years. It is also better to buy quality clothing even if it is more expensive. Cheap clothing and shoes don't pay in the end if they do not last long.

www.nature.is

HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES



Household appliances use a lot of energy and therefore it is more environmentally friendly, and also cheaper, to choose appliances which do not use excessive energy. The energy symbols, e.g. Energy Star and the European Energy symbol, help us to find the most energy efficient appliances on the market at any given time. The use of water can also be a very important factor. It is also wise to choose household appliances according to the real needs of the family and according to the family size. Often, it is unnecessary to invest in expensive equipment which has a limited lifespan. It is also better to have only a few high quality appliances than many old and inefficient ones. While there may exist a machine which can do the job, you can do many things by hand. Here in the household appliances section, a lot of information is available regarding energy saving, energy symbols, and certification by a third party which leads to how, through Nature.is, you can obtain the product.

www.nature.is

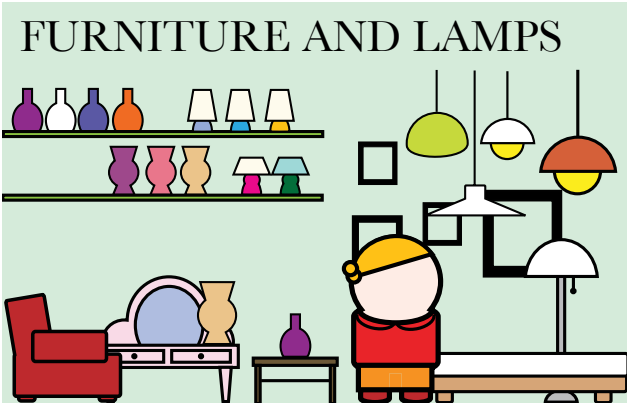


Nature.is a guide for eco-friendlier products!

In our perception of today's reality, we can see that everything is either environmentally friendly, unfriendly or even hazardous. Not that it wasn't always that way, but in the past we lacked awareness and were ignorant of the real damage we were actually doing to ourselves and the environment. The issue is complex and can be confusing, so unless we are planning on getting a special academic degree it would remain difficult for us to know what's best. Therefore Nature.is has done much of the work for you in order to make it easier to understand and even to make finding out about environmental issues a fun excursion. The nature of the products determines the possible labels or environmental guidelines fitting that particular group. See the examples below, look for more on [HYPERLINK "http://www.nature.is"](http://www.nature.is) www.nature.is:



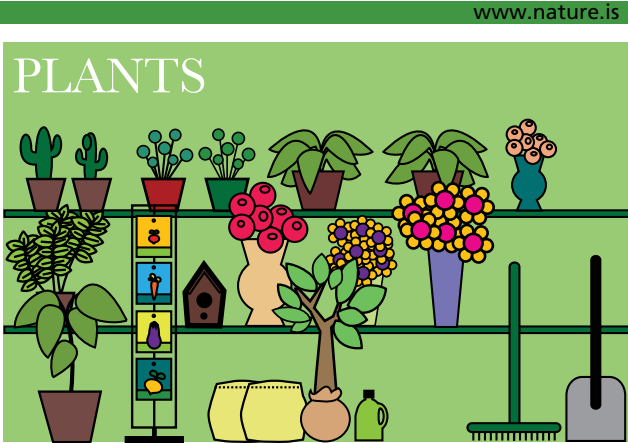
Ecological cleaning products are available in great quantities and many of them are environmentally certified. It is often possible to get by entirely without the purchase of specific cleaning products if natural materials like vinegar and salt are available. Overuse of soaps and cleaning agents is harmful and expensive for the environment. Chemicals do not disappear when they go down the sink; they continue through the sewage system and end up in the ocean. There they continue to be active and can damage marine life. Even though chemicals may eventually biodegrade in nature, we do not always know how fast that happens and sometimes the decomposed products are more harmful than the original substance itself. Avoiding the use of unnecessary and strong chemicals and only using the minimum amount of detergents is safest. In general, water in Iceland is softer than in most parts of Europe, so less soap and detergents can be used here. The inhabitants of the Earth use an enormous amount of toilet paper which has to decompose in nature. By selecting environmentally friendly paper napkins and toilet paper we can reduce the harm to our environment. The same goes for diapers, sanitary napkins, and other once-used products. Here, in the section of 'Cleaning Products', all information on the packaging is listed and environmental certifications and other certifications are explained in detail.



Our furnishings consist of various chemicals both from the plant kingdom and the mineral realm, for example, from wood, metals, glass, fibres from plants, minerals and various synthetic chemicals. It is mainly the synthetic chemicals that can be dangerous. Not only can the outgassing of certain chemicals be detrimental to human beings, the environmental impact can also be considerable. Over 100,000 chemicals are used in all kinds of products today and most of them have not been tested with regard to allergies or the impact on human health. Also, we need to beware of things that are harmless in moderate amounts that can become harmful in excessive quantities or in combination with other chemicals. If we take furniture made of wood as an example, then it is important that the wood comes from sustainable forestry. Furniture which is marked with the symbol of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) can be trusted to be from sustainable forests. Corc is one of the natural materials considered environmentally friendly, especially if it is produced from recycled materials. PVC – plastic, on the other hand, is always environmentally harmful and unhealthy. The home, in view of environmental sustainability, is a wide subject and running a sustainable one can be complicated. However, here in the 'Furniture and Lamps' section there are some things available which are exceptional from health and environmental perspectives.

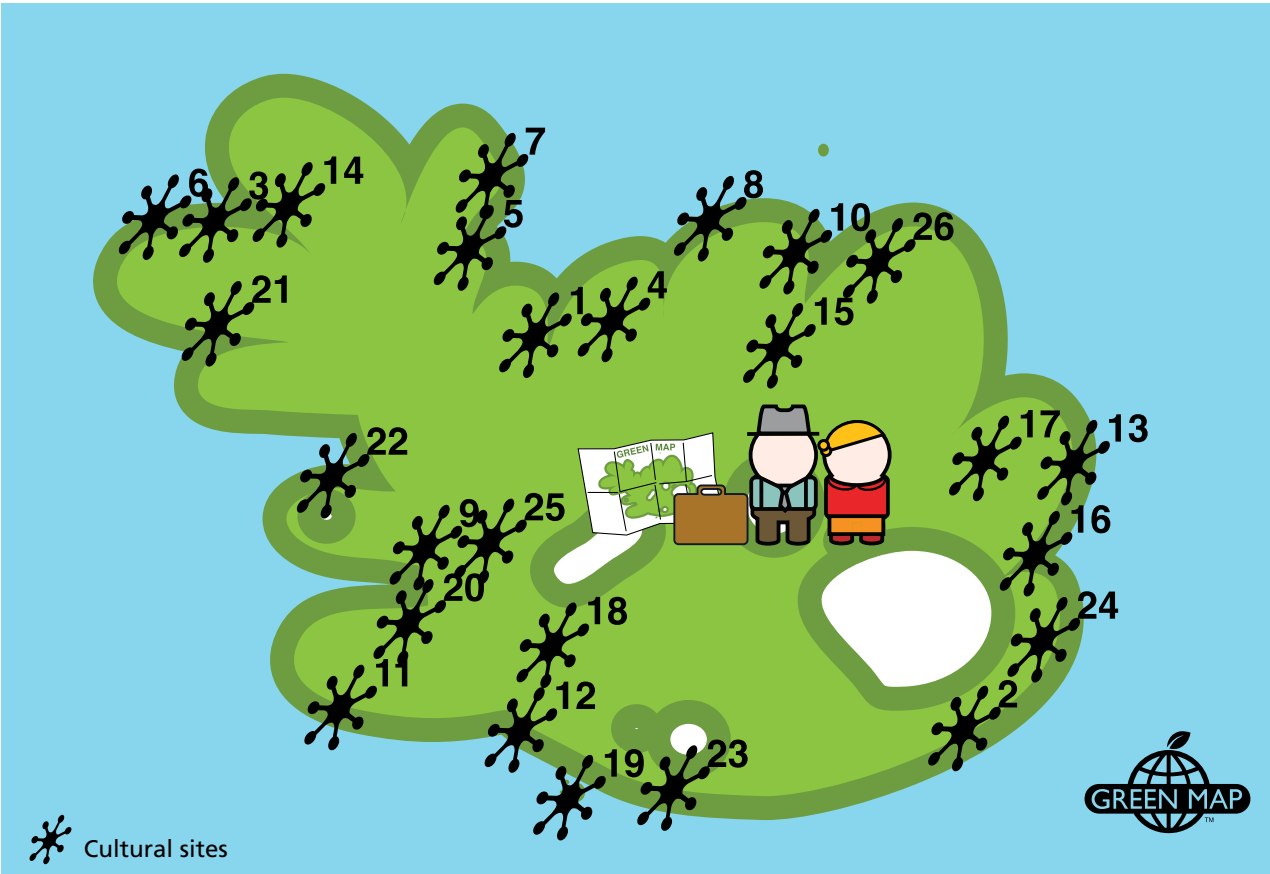


Coffee, tea and spices are dried products of many different plants. As with living plants, it is important that they are grown in a clean and healthy environment in order to safeguard quality. Also important for quality is how the plants are dried, stored and packaged. Organic certification or environmental certification concerns the whole process from production to packaging and ensures that nowhere in the process have harmful chemicals been used, guaranteeing that quality is in accordance with the strictest standards. Sometimes preservatives or even MSG are added to the spices in order to increase flavour and to lengthen shelf life. Therefore it is important for the consumer to carefully read the ingredients. In this section, all information provided on the packaging is listed and certifications are especially mentioned. Coffee is produced by burning the beans of the coffee plant. The growing of the coffee plant can be with or without synthetic chemicals, e.g. fertilisers and toxins. By buying organically grown coffee it is possible to ensure that neither the body or the environment is being polluted. Fair trade encompasses both tea and coffee production and ensures that the workers are fairly treated and paid.



Plants are either grown wild or produced, i.e. raised by sowing seed or by planting seedlings. The plants that are available in Iceland are either grown here or imported. Supervision of the importation of seed, living plants, flowers and fertiliser is in the hands of the the Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority. The main role of the the Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority is to prevent diseases or vermin imported into the country from causing damage to plant cultivation here. Organic seeds and organically grown plants can now be bought from many producers and the demand is steadily increasing. Organic cultivation is based on the fact that medicines and preventive chemicals are not used for the soil, and only organic fertiliser is used. The environmental impact of such production is much more positive than it was during traditional cultivation. The TUN certifying agency is a member of IFOAM and certifies organic production here in Iceland. As it is difficult to avoid plants and seeds in Iceland from contact with organically modified organisms, and since it is not obligatory to label or enlighten the general consumer about the origins of the product, genetically speaking, there has been some interest in declaring entire parts of Iceland as areas without genetically engineered cultivation.

Green map of Iceland has as its main aim to give a representative overview of available green businesses and opportunities, providing sound information on green aspects of Iceland both for tourists or natives. Many Icelandic museums and cultural centers devoted to the distinctive interaction of culture and nature in the rural areas of Iceland or the natural/cultural heritage among the rural population have been established in recent years throughout the country. Following centers are only an example of cultural sites established in recent years, and not a complete list. A com-



1. The Icelandic Seal Center – Hvammstangi

2. Glacier Exhibition, Höfn Hornarfjörður

3. Iceland Arctic Fox Center, Súðavík

4. Sea Ice Exhibition Center, Blönduós

5. Sheep Farming Museum Exhibition, Strandir

6. The Ösvör Maritime museum, Bolungarvík

7. Museum of Icelandic Sorcery and Witchcraft, Hólmavík

8. The Icelandic Herring Era Museum, Siglufjörður

9. The Settlement Center, Borgarnes

10. The Whale Museum, Húsavík

11. The Icelandic Salt Fish Center, Grindavík

12. The Ghost Center, Stokkseyri

13. Nature and Heritage Center, Skálanes
14. The Snjafjallasetur Heritage Center, Dalbæ

15. Exhibition Cowshed Vogar, Mývatn

16. Petra's Stone Collection, Stöðvarfjörður

17. Sænaútasel, Egilsstaðir

18. Þingvellir Interpretive Center, Þingvellir

19. Aquarium & Museum of Natural History, Westman Islands

20. National Museum of Iceland, Reykjavík

21. Jón Sigurðsson Museum, Hrafnseyri

22. West-Iceland Institute of Natural History, Stykkishólmur

23. Skógar Museum, Skógar

24. Þórbergssetur, Suðursveit

25. Wool Center, Hvanneyri

26. Gljúfrastofa, Ásbyrgi

ÁLVER Á BAKKA?

FOR
TRANSLATION
ASK A LOCAL

Leirhnjúkur. Búið er að veita rannsóknarleyfi á Leirhnjúk.
Ljósmynd Sigurgeir Sigurjónsson.



Bjarnarflag í Mývatnssveit. Bjarnarflag er mikið ferðamannasvæði en er líka
í hættu, þetta svæði verður eyðilaggt ef álver á Bakka verður að veruleika.
Ljósmynd RAX



Ómar Ragnarsson er einn þeirra sem hefur barist hvað mest fyrir náttúru landsins. Til stendur að reisa Álver Alcoa á Bakka við Húsavík. Og til þess þarf að fórna háhitasvæðunum í kring. Það er Ómari því mikið kappsmál að vernda til dæmis Leirhnjúka og Gjástykki.

“Búið er að ákveða örlög Þeistareykja, þau eru farin. Það er búið að bora þau sundur og saman. Það er bara hlægilegt hvernig er farið að, öll loforð eru svikin og það er borað í öll fallegustu svæðin. Það er farið inn á svæðið og valdið sem mestum usla svo það þurfi ekki að ræða það frekar, og hægt sé að halda áfram. Þegar búið er að bora í sundur svæðið þá er bara formsatriði að byggja virkjunina.

Það sama á að gera við Gjástykki og Leirhnjúk, þar er búið að veita rannsóknarleyfi sem var gert tveimur dögum fyrir kosningar. Þessi svæði eru undur veraldar og náttúrufegurðin gífurleg. Fyrir mér er þetta eins og að fara inn á Þingvelli og bora. Það liggur því mest við að koma í veg fyrir það og það er ennþá hægt að bjarga Gjástykki og Leirhnjúk. Það er eins og fólk vilji ekki hlusta, það vill ekki vita hvað er verið að fórna miklu. Ég hef talað bæði við Umhverfisstofnuneytið og Iðnaðarráðuneytið en það hefur engan árangur borið.

Verðmætamatið hjá Íslendingum er svo skritið. Þegar Íslendingar koma á svæðið fara þeir að skoða leiðslur og virkjanir en þegar útlendingar koma á svæðið þá fara þeir beint í að skoða náttúruna.”

Þeistareykir. Nú þegar er búið að bora í fallegustu svæðin á Þeistareykjum.
Ljósmynd Chris Lund.



OLÍUHREINSISTÖÐ Í ARNARFIRÐI?



Hvesta í Arnarfirði. Þar eru áform um að reisa olíuhreinsistöð, með tilheyrandi mengun.
Ljósmynd: Mats Wibe Lund.




VILLIMEY

Áhugi **Aðalbjargar Þorsteinsdóttur** á jurtum og áhrifamætti þeirra má rekja til nálægðina við stórbrotna náttúru Vestfjarða, en þar hafa grasalæknar starfað í gegnum aldirnar og viska þeirra borist kynslóð frá kynslóð.

Aðalbjörg rekur fyrirtækið Villimey á Tálknafirði þar sem þróun og framleiðsla fer fram á smyrslum, salva og áburði úr plöntum sem eru tíndar við Tálknafjörð, Patreksfjörð og Arnarfjörð. Einungis er valdar villtar jurtir sem vaxa í nærin-garríkum jarðvegi, fá hreint loft og tært vatn. Það segir sig sjálft að Olíuhreinsistöð við Arnarfjörð myndi gera útum starfsemi Villimeyjar. “Já, það verður bara mengun hérna ef olíuhreinsistöðin kemur, mér finnst þetta óhugnalegt og eiginlega algjört skaðræði. Það eru ekki margir sem þora að segja að þeir séu á móti og í svona litlu samfélagi finn ég fyrir því að vera á móti þessu, fólk sér ekki hvað þetta er skelfilegt. Ég veit ekki hvað þarf til að opna augu þeirra sem vilja þetta.”

Hreint svæði
Smyrslin eru 100% náttúruleg, lífrænt vottuð, unnin úr íslenskum jurtum sem eru handtýndar í hreinni náttúru. Þau eru án allra rotvarna-, ilm- og litarefna. “Það skip-tir öllu máli að halda svæðinu hreinu. Ég er með 8.000 ferkílómetra af lífrænt vottuðu landsvæði. Þetta er stærsta


svæði á Íslandi sem er lífrænt vottað. Varan mín er öll lífræn því allir grunnar eru lífrænt vottaðir líka. Vottunar-stofan Tún kemur hingað reglulega og tekur út framleiðsl-una og landsvæðið. Það segir sig sjálft að varan missir ímynd sína, sem og svæðið allt og ég tel að ekki verði hægt að vera með lífræna vottun á Vestfjörðum komi olíuhreinsi-stöð hingað. Allt svæðið mun mengast og sjórinn líka og það þykir mér ekki minna mengunarslys en á land-svæðinu.”



villimey.is

LÁTRABJARG

Í sveitarfélagi Vesturbyggðar eru tillögur um að gera svæðið í kringum Látrabjarg, sem er friðað, að þjóðgarði. Það rímar engan veginn við áform um olíuhreinsistöð í sama sveitarfélagi, en myndi skapa atvinnu tengda ferða-mennsku. Látrabjarg eru stórkostleg fuglabjörg, hin mestu við Norður-Atlantshaf og vel grónar bjargbrúnir og heiðar. Bæjarvaðall og Rauðisandur er viðáttumiklar, rauðleitar skeljasandsfjörur og árlón með fjölbreyttu dýralífi. Mikið af sel er á Rauðasandi. Í Látrabjargi er stærsta álkubyggð í heimi og þar nær lundi líklega alþjóðlegum verndar-viðmiðum. Á svæðinu hafa orpið yfir 45 tegundir fugla.



„SKELFILEGT HVERNIG ÞJÓÐIN HUGSAR“

Íslenskur hátækniðnaður hefur áform um að koma upp olíuhreinsistöð í Arnarfirði á Vestfjörðum. Hvorki Umhverfis-ráðuneytið né Iðnaðarráðuneytið geta tjáð sig um málið því það hefur ekki komið formlega inn á borð til þeirra. Olíuhreinsistöðinni hefur samt verið fundinn staðurinn Hvesta í Arnarfirði.

Jón Björnsson, starfsmaður Umhverfisstofnunar á Vestfjörðum, er ekki sammála þessum áformum. “Það er skelfilegt hvernig þjóðin hugsar. Við erum til dæmis eina þjóðin í heiminum sem hefur engar áhyggjur af hnattrænni hlýnun. Það þarf að vekja þjóðina til umhugsunar. Ég vill ekki trúa því að þessi olíuhreinsistöð verði að veruleika. Það sem hefur verið að stoppa fyrirtæki af annars staðar í heiminum er losun á gróðurhúsalofttegundum út í andrúmslofið, og þess vegna hefur orkufrekur iðnaður verið að færast til Islands því við bjóðum upp á það frítt. Andrúmsloftið er auðlind. Á Vestfjörðum er eitt besta andrúmsloft í heimi, en svo eru áform um að bjóða olíu-hreinsistöð að þurfa ekki að borga fyrir losun á kolt-vísyringi. Við erum svo langt á eftir heiminum í umhverfis-vernd.”

Heildarmyndin
Jón heldur því fram að fólk nenni ekki að spá í heildarmynd-ina og hvað við erum með stór vistkerfi. “Öll virkjun er mjög viðkvæm á Vestfjörðum. Við tökum áhættu með

öll vistkerfi með því að setja olíuhreinsistöð á svæðið. Því norðar sem mengandi stóriðja er því viðkvæmari fyrir vistkerfið er hún. Vistkerfin á norðurhveli jarðar eru miklu viðkvæm-ari. Það sem tekur upp koltvísyring í andrúms-loftinu er gróður og því er miklu meiri virkni í upptöku koltvísýrings á suðurhveli jarðar. Í Arnarfirði eru um 150 tegundir af háplöntum, svona vistkerfi er mjög óstöðugt og viðkvæmt fyrir mengun. Hér hafa verið auðug fiskimið og nú er aftur komin rækja í Arnarfjörð. Við erum með bestu loftgæði í heimi og gott neysluvatn. Þeir sem búa í þessu landi verða að gera sér grein fyrir því. Íslendingar verða að skilja að hreint loft og hreint vatn eru helstu lífsgæði í heiminum og við megum ekki fórna þeim.”

Sagan
Jón talar um að Íslendingar séu fastir í að vilja ekki skoða söguna og fólk er ekki tilbúið að hlusta á rökin. “Ástæðan fyrir því að Hornstrandir fóru í eyði er af því að þar var byggð hvalveiðiverksmiðja sem breyttist í sildarverksmiðju 1923 en þegar hún lagðist af fór byggðin í eyði. Stöðug-leikinn í samfélaginu fór allur í eina verksmiðju og þegar hún lokaði þá var ekkert annað. Sama gæti gerst í Arnar-firði ef byggð er ein stór verksmiðja og ef hún lokar, hvað þá? Ísfirðingar vildu Hornstrandarfriðlandið, það skilar engum tekjum en skipti Ísfirðinga miklu máli bara að hafa þær friðaðar. Það er stundum eins og Íslendingar sjái ekki verðmæti nema þau fari beint í veskið. Það þarf að breyta



þeirri hugsun. Á Ísafirði hefur til dæmis orðið breyting á sam-félaginu, það er meiri flóra núna og fleiri störf fyrir menntaða einstaklinga. Það gerist ef hlutirnir fá að þróast í friði. Ef það er ekki komið með eina stóra lausn, eitt stórt verkefni, einn stóran togara, eða eina stóra verksmiðju. Ef það er látið í friði þá getur stöðugleiki mótast í samfélaginu á tíu árum.”

NATTURA.INFO

Nattura.info is a new website about Icelandic environmental hotspots. Nattura.info is a grassroots initiative to inform the public of what we have, what we can lose and how we can grow into greener directions.

The possibilities are endless in all directions of business. The proposed aluminium smelters will use large slices of our landscape in an unsustainable way. Each smelter is using more electricity than the total need of the entire nation and its industries. We believe that we can do bigger things slower and better.

But what is needed is more public awareness and a democratic enlightened view of the future.



Ljósmynd NASA.

FRAMTÍÐARLANDIÐ

FOR
TRANSLATION
ASK A LOCAL



Hellisheiði. Ljósmynd Chris Lund.

Framtíðarlandið hefur staðið fyrir fundum og fengið sérfræðinga til að meta efnahagsleg og umhverfisleg áhrif stórframkvæmda; verkfræðing a,hagfræðinga, viðskiptafræðinga og líffræðinga.Skýrslurnar eru aðgengilegar á vefnum framtidarlandid.is Á dögunum kom út skýrsla þar sem stuðningur íslenska ríkisins við stóriðju var metinn á 30 milljarða árlega. Hér eru brot úr skýrslunni.

Úr skýrslu Framtíðarlandsins. „Þegar atvinnuástand versnar má búast við auknum þrýstingi á stjórnvöld að slaka á kröfum til umhverfisverndar og arðsemi svo að auðvelda megi orkunýtingu til uppbyggingar stóriðju, einkum áliðnaðar. Stjórnvöld, ekki síst sveitarstjórnarmenn, horfa á framkvæmdir framkvæmdanna vegna en varanleg fjölgun starfa er einnig mikilvæg forsenda fyrir áhuga þeirra á stóriðju. Meginreglan ætti að vera að arðsemi ráði vali á fjárfestingarkostum. Fjölgun starfa er ekki góður mælikvarði á ágæti fjárfestingar. Í fyrsta lagi eru störf hluti af kostnaði frá sjónarhóli atvinnurekanda. Þeirra markmið er að auka framleiðni sem mest og fækka störfum ef mögulegt er. Í álverksmiðjum gildir þetta einnig og víst að reynt verður að auka framleiðni í framtíðinni. Hefðu menn verið jafn áfjáðir í að fórna landinu fyrir Kárahnjúkavirkjun ef álverið á Reyðarfirði kæmist af með fáeina tugi starfsmanna? Í öðru lagi er mikil fjárfesting á bak við hvert starf í álverksmiðjum og samsvarandi orkuframkvæmdum. Ef markmiðið er aðeins að útvega sæmilega launuð störf er hægt að ná því markmiði fyrir brot af þeirri fjárfestingu sem fer í orkuframkvæmdir til stóriðju. Þótt álver séu umfangsmikill atvinnurekandi og greiði tiltölulega góð laun hefur reynslan m.a. frá Bandaríkjunum sýnt að stafsemi þeirra hefur aðeins spornað gegn óhagstæðri byggðapróun í strjálbýli þar sem slík álver eru rekin, en hún hefur ekki megnað að snúa þróuninni við. Loks er rétt að hafa í huga að ný

tækni- eða verkþekking kemur varla inn í landið með fleiri álverum þar sem framleiðsla á áli er stöðluð og tæknin fánleg um allan heim. Bygging Kárahnjúkavirkjunar kostaði með flutningsvirkjum um 145 milljarða króna sem samsvarar ríflega 350 milljónum á hvert af 400 störfum. Ekki er ástæða til að reikna með meiri margföldunaráhrifum af þessari starfsemi heldur en annarri úflutningsstarfsemi. Ef litið er til vaxtar vinnumarkaðar hér á landi undanfarin ár kemur í ljós að starfandi fólki hefur fjölgað um 40.000 frá 1991-2007. Fjármuna-myndun í atvinnuvegum hefur verið sveiflukennd en að meðaltali kringum 10% af vergri landsframleiðslu (VLF) á þessu tímabili. Hins vegar voru þáttatekjur í álframleiðslu árið 2006 18,5 milljarðar af um 670 milljarða heildarþáttatekjum í landinu. Þar af voru 10 milljarðar rekstrarafgangur sem fer í vasa erlendra eigenda. Árið 2006 voru vergar þáttatekjur rafveitna tæpir 30 milljarðar króna, en árið 2004, síðasta árið sem gögn eru um, var um fjórðungur tekna rafveitna frá stóriðju. Það hlutfall hefur líklega aukist með hækkandi álverði. Af þáttatekjum af rafveitum eru tæpir 9 milljarðar laun og tengd gjöld, en mikill hluti rekstrarafgangs fer í vexti af erlendum lánum. Álframleiðsla hefur 2-3 faldast síðan 2006. Norðurál hefur stækkað og hafin er álframleiðsla á Austurlandi og enn eru uppi ráðagerðir um ný álver. Vissulega munar um þessa framleiðslu, en ljóst er þó að áliðnaður hefur ekki úrslitaáhrif á þróun vinnumarkaðs eða byggðar, nema þá á afmörkuðum svæðum. Framkvæmdir við álver og

virkjanir kalla hins vegar á mikið vinnuafli. Starfsmenn hafa margir verið erlendir undanfarin ár eins og kunnugt er og það hefur létt nokkrum þrýstingi af vinnumarkaðinum. Engu að síður hafa stóriðjuframkvæmdir aukið væntingar um betri tíð og m.a. þannig stuðlað að verðbólgu og háum vöxtum hér á landi. Nýjar framkvæmdir munu ekki draga úr þeim vanda.

Hér hefur ekki verið talinn fórnarkostnaður vegna náttúruspjalla eða slæmrar landnýtingar. Dæmi um slíkt eru neikvæð áhrif á ferðamannaíðnað þar sem ljóst er að erlendir ferðamenn koma ekki hingað til að skoða álverksmiðjur eða háspennulínur heldur til að njóta ópilltrar náttúru og viðernis. Vafalaust munu einhverjir varpa fram þeirri hefðbundnu spurningu hvað annað eigi að gera til að efla atvinnulíf en að byggja álverksmiðjur. Þegar litið er á niðurstöðuna hér er svarið önnur spurning: Hvað er ekki hægt að gera með umhverfisvænum hætti fyrir þá miklu fjármuni sem varið hefur verið og verja á til orkuframkvæmda fyrir stóriðju? Fjárfesting í einstökum fyrirtækjum er verksvið einkageirans, en hið opinbera getur bætt mannauð landsins með auknum tækifærum til sérmenntunar svo þörfum atvinnulífsins á því sviði verði betur mætt. Niðurstaðan er að fjárfesting í orkuframkvæmdum fyrir stóriðju með núverandi ríkisaðstoð er langt frá því að vera hagkvæm leið til uppbyggingar atvinnulífs hér á landi.“