

101 Bar

Hverfisgata 10



Overexcited media types from abroad and bourgeois locals networking 4 reelz or playing make believe with Mr. Overdraft.



Atmosphere: Swanky; clean; sophisticated; busy but not crammed.

Music Playlists.
Genre Inoffensive background music.

Age Youngish (20-30s).

Clientele Artsy fartsy; business people/bankers; tourists; celebrities; actors; legends; designers.

Dress code Business casual; chic (but modest) design wear; casual-casual.

"OMG Kirsten, that whole multimedia thing at Coachella was crazy."

Food a full menu of small dishes

Notable beer Tuborg classic, Viking (the usual)

Special feature Mock fireplace, polished reflecting wall, table service.

Primary reason to go there To chat with friends, To see celebrities, To network or connect, To bolster an image.

1919 (Radisson)

Pósthússtræti 2



Same fancy designer furniture they have at 101 Hotel. Insane amount of Spanish-speaking people on both sides of the bar. A nice enough place for a drink if you're having a casual business meeting or pre-gaming with the crew, so long as you all happen to be quite well off.



Atmosphere: Swanky; lounge; quiet.

Music Playlists.
Genre Inoffensive background music.

Age Youngish (20-30s); middle age (40-50s); older (50s plus).

Clientele Business people; bankers; tourists.

Dress code Suits and inertia.

"...that she would say something like that in front of the whole marketing department is just fucking insane..."

Food Tapas and cheese platters (far from complimentary).

Notable beer Stella Artois.

Primary reason to go there To chat with friends; to network or connect; to bolster an image.

Amsterdam

Hafnarstræti 5



Deadbeat dive bar where no one cares how you dance.



Atmosphere: Grungy; trashy; loud; up beat; dive bar.

Music Occasional live music
Genre Top 40; metal; RAWK; Golden Oldies; NICKELBACK.

Age Too young (under 20); youngish (20-30s).

Clientele 101 rats; bikers; professional drinkers; metalheads; teenagers; people who like NICKELBACK.

Dress code Derelict! Dresscode is to undress: a girl standing in the middle of the dance floor took off her actually very nice pink skirt and high heels and proceeded to dance the night away in her socks and bike-shorts.

"Look at this photograph, every time I do it makes me laugh."

Special feature A special secret smokers room in the basement just past the bathrooms; VLT machines; silver CD mural adorning the wall behind the stage.

Primary reason to go there To drink yourself silly; to find a mate; to go dancing; to chat with friends; to forget; to smoke inside.



GRAPEVINE GOES DRINKING...

AFTER HAVING LOADS OF FUN MAKING A BAR GUIDE LAST YEAR (WE REALLY LOVE DRINKING), WE DECIDED TO MAKE IT AN ANNUAL EVENT (YES, WE REALLY LOVE DRINKING). SO, WE DECIDED ONCE AGAIN TO REVIEW AND RATE EVERY SINGLE BAR IN 101 REYKJAVÍK. AND OUR RESEARCH REVEALS THAT THERE ARE, MUCH LIKE LAST YEAR, AROUND FIFTY BARS IN TOWN.

Perhaps you're thinking that we could have simply updated last year's guide. Well, first of all, that wouldn't have been as much fun (less drinking), and a lot has changed in the last year. A bunch of bars have probably closed, and then opened under a new name, and then perhaps returned to their old name, or even moved across town. And of course, a bar or two has probably

Austur

Austurstræti 7



This is a steak house by day and an expensive bar that looks like a strip joint without a stage by night!



Atmosphere: Swanky; clean; lounge; quiet; low key.

Music Playlists
Genre R&B; top 40.

Age Youngish (20-30s), Middle age (40-50s)

Clientele Business people; bankers; tourists; professional drinkers.

opened or closed by the time this issue goes to print. Such is the nature of the game.

So we ganged together a bunch of fun-loving writers (and drinking lovers), divided the bars between them, and sent them off to work. Of course you may not agree with everything we've written as our tastes may differ greatly from yours or we may just be wrong (you can write us an angry letter about that), but ultimately this guide is for entertainment and informational purposes, and it is meant to incite discourse more than anything. And if it helps you find a new bar you love, then that's all the better.

There was at least some method to our madness, which you can read below.

REVIEWER INSTRUCTIONS:

These are the instructions we gave to our reviewers before they embarked upon their mission.

DEFINE: BAR

A bar is an establishment that has 'the sale and consumption of alcohol' as its main purpose and goal. It cannot regularly charge an entry fee, and it must remain open until 1AM on weekdays. It can sell food, but emphasis must be placed on, again, the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

METHOD

Each reviewer was instructed to drink one beer at each bar reviewed. To ensure that all bars were reviewed under similar circumstances, they were asked to go there between the hours of 23:00 and 1:00 on a djamm ("party") night. These are typically Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, but because Monday was a holiday, Sunday was also for partying. Any excuse, right...

Dress code Business suits!

"I don't like this music"

Special feature The staircase to the second floor is decorated with broken mirrors! Bottle service on offer.

Primary reason to go there To drink yourself silly; to find a mate.

B5

Bankastræti 5



If Patrick Bateman came to Iceland, this is where he'd hang out.

At the bar, they were instructed to take notes in their fancy notebook, which they did not forget to bring (because forgetting that would be horrible). They noted the following:



Atmosphere

Music / Genre

Age

Clientele

Dress code

Quote of note

Food

Notable beer

Special feature

Primary reason to go there

OUR REVIEW TEAM:

Rebecca Louder, Sindri Eldon, Ragnar Egilsson, Magnús Sveinn Helgason, David P. Nickel, Valgerður Þóroddsdóttir, Alfrun Gísladóttir, Davíð Roach Gunnarsson, Alísa Kalyanova, Anna Andersen, Óli Dóri, Cory Weinberg, Taylor Selsback, Melanie Franz, Paul Fontaine



Atmosphere Swanky; clean; sophisticated; meat market; lounge; up beat.

Music DJ
Genre R&B; house; disco.

Age Too young (under 20); youngish (20-30s).

Clientele Business people; bankers; tourists; body builders/tan-bots; Jakob Frimann; yuppies and students with a big clothing budget.

Dress code Expensive, trendy stuff; nice shoes, designer jackets, carefully accessorized outfits worn tight.

"Whoop whoop! Guess who's in the house?"

Special feature This is, essentially, one big room with very little in it. Perfect for dancing, and these guys shell out real money for a real fucking DJ, not just some douchebag with a playlist.

Primary reason to go there To find a mate; to go dancing; to fulfill a fantasy; to feed your ego; to network or connect; to bolster an image.

Bakkus

Laugavegur 22



A smelly, sticky plasma of creativity.



Atmosphere Grunge; trashy; loud; up beat.

Music DJs; regular live music.
Genre Modern hipsterfare; Pitchfork core.

Age Youngish (20-30s)

Clientele 101 rats; journos; tourists; musicians.

Dress code Men wear bright coloured t-shirts, braces and some sort of post-converse shoe. Women wear dresses that can be worn in fifty ways coupled with tights that are more expensive than their dress, but less expensive than their asymmetrical hair cuts.

"Did Sweden win Eurovision?" "I wouldn't know." "Oh, I only watched it ironically anyway."

Special feature Foosball tables; a covered smoking patio; decorations by artist Davíð Örn Halldórsson.

Primary reason to go there To drink yourself silly, To listen to music, To bolster an image

Bar 7

Frakkastígur 7



When ÁTVR is closed, fear not! Bar 7 will hook you up.



Atmosphere Grungy; trashy; flaky

Music The radio
Genre Whatever comes up...

Age Too young (under 20), Youngish (20-30s), Middle age (40-50s), Older (50s plus)

Clientele People picking up booze on the go

Dress code Literally whatever.

"What the fuck? It's still closed!"

Special feature Room to seat 4 and completely unpredictable opening hours.

Primary reason to go there To drink yourself silly; to pick up to-go beers.

Bar 11

Hverfisgata 18



A fair live venue, but mostly just teenagers trying to decide what tattoos to get.



Atmosphere: Grungy, Loud, Gimmicky

Music Regular live music, DJs
Genre Top 40, RAWK, Hipster music - modern hipsterfare, pitchfork core

Age Too young (under 20), Youngish (20-30s)

Clientele Metalheads, Goths, Conspiracy theorists

Dress code Latest fashions, the occasional leather jacket and those awful neckties kids sometimes wear.

"Dude! I was so drunk that time that I thought you were a girl!"

Special feature There is a pretty decent stage for live music in the basement.

Primary reason to go there To drink yourself silly, To feed your ego, To bolster an image.

Bar 22

Laugavegur 22



A respectable, comfortable bar to start your night with.

950 1200 1100

Atmosphere Homey

Music Playlists
Genre R&B, Golden Oldies

Age Middle age (40-50s)

Clientele Tourists; professional drinkers; writers or poets/Bukowski types; people who can't be bothered waiting in line to get into Bakkus.

Dress code Mostly casual wear. The T-shirt-and-jeans crowd would fit in just as well as suit-and-jacket types, although the mood is decidedly laid back.

"Didn't this used to be Trúnó?" (It did.)

Notable beer Guinness; Kilkenny; Úlfur; Bjartur.

Special feature This is the sort of place to start the night at - taper candles in liquor bottles, wood paneling, 60s music (Doors, Stones, Zeppelin) played at a volume where you can still hold a conversation. Also has a big screen TV, usually playing Sky Sports.

Primary reason to go there To chat with friends; to listen to music; to read.

Bjarni Fel

Austurstræti 20

★★★★☆

A place where sports fans can be social, where watching sports is the only purpose you have.

990 1100 1080

Atmosphere: Loud, sports bar chic; practical non-stylish interior; sporty!

Music No music. Sport commentators and TV noise.

Age Youngish (20-30s), Middle age (40-50s)

Clientele Sport fans of all shapes and kinds, mostly male.

Dress code There's none, perhaps jerseys to support your team

"Yeeeahhh! Go, go, goooo!..... Uhhh"

Notable beer Einstök

Special feature TV screens in all directions to show the latest sport games.

Primary reason to go there To watch sports on television.

Boston

Laugavegur 28b

★★★★★

If you want to mingle with an older crowd that's full of interesting locals, while listening to a varied selection of music, Boston is the place to be.

850 1000 900

Atmosphere: Clean; loud; reminiscent of an Icelandic version of Cheers.

Music DJ
Genre Jazz; golden oldies; whatever comes up...

Age Youngish (20-30s); middle age (40-50s).

Artsy fartsy; professional drinkers; musicians.

The dress code is very flexible, from the skimpiest of clothing to the guy in the huge winter jacket. No one's judging you.

"Dancing in Florence is quite amazing, but it's nice to be back here in Iceland."

Food Pizza

Notable beer Einstök; Groeschel; Bjartur.

Special feature Large outdoor patio, Upstairs lounge area. Lots of tables to sit and chat, while having enough space in between to dance.

Primary reason to go there To drink yourself silly; to go dancing; to listen to music.

Café Paris

Austurstræti 14

★★★★☆

Jazzy, touristy and pricey, with a Starbucks-feel.

900 1100 950

Atmosphere: Clean; lounge.

Music Playlists
Genre Jazz; inoffensive background music.

Age Youngish (20-30s), Middle age (40-50s)

Clientele Tourists

Dress code Tourists dress smart, donning the few better items they managed to pack.

Couldn't make out a thing.

Food Nachos, crêpes and such

Notable beer Leffe; Guinness;

Special feature Books and magazines cupboard

Primary reason to go there To listen to music. To bolster an image. To pretend to work on your book of poetry.

Café Rósenberg

Klappartígur 25-27

★★★★☆

A sophisticated venue for taking in live music where people actually shut up during performances.

800 1150 900

Atmosphere Clean; sophisticated; romantic.

Music: Regular live music.
Genre: Inoffensive background music; Jazz; TROUBADOUR ALERT, folk rock; modern hipster fare; Pitchfork-core.

Age Youngish (20-30s), Middle age (40-50s), Older (50s plus)

Clientele Artsy fartsy; journos; Writers or poets/Bukowski types; celebrities; actors; legends; musicians.

Dress code "Men wear suits, ironic or otherwise, which must be accompanied by a special feature, a hat, large black rimmed glasses, or pink suede shoes. Women wear Icelandic design and lots of Icelandic design jewellery that you can wear all at once."

"Have you read Haruki Murakami's IQ84?"

Food A full menu of reasonably priced food, as well as bar snacks such as nuts and crisps from 250 ISK

Primary reason to go there To chat with friends; to listen to music; to network or connect.

Celtic Cross

Hverfisgata 26

★★★☆☆

College kids on dates chit-chatting over troubadors. Oh yeah, and it's like an Irish pub, we guess.

800 1200 800

Atmosphere: Loud; gimmicky.

Music Troubadour ALERT
Genre RAWK; Golden Oldies.

Age Too young (under 20), Youngish (20-30s)

Clientele Musicians, Straight-laced blue-collar types.

Dress code Band t-shirts; sweatshirts; jeans.

"If my boyfriend ever grew a mustache, I'd break up with him."

Special feature Sometimes the troubador will be backed by a second guy on another guitar, who occasionally goes outside and plays a verse or two, hoping it will "attract" customers." The basement is like a commissary where they only serve alcohol.

Primary reason to go there To find a mate, To network or connect

Centre Hotel - Plaza

Aðalstræti 4

★★★★☆

Since the clientele is primarily composed of hotel guests it is a neat, tastefully decorated and quiet place to drink a couple of beers without having to look at Icelanders!

900 1300 1100

Atmosphere: Clean; sophisticated; lounge; quiet.

Music Playlists.
Genre Inoffensive background music.

Age Middle age (40-50s), Older (50s plus)

Clientele Tourists .

Dress code Whatever you are wearing: It's a hotel lobby!

"...and they are so friendly!" Overheard from some well off middle aged Swedish tourists who were relaxing after a long day, apparently going horseback riding- presumably the Icelandic ponies are friendly, but it might have been the locals. Who knows!

Primary reason to go there To chat with friends

Chateaux des dix/ Tíu Dropar

Laugavegur 27

★★★★☆

This is a cosy coffee shop, which turns into a wine bar during the evening, but they also serve hard alcohol and beer too.

750 1150 750

Atmosphere: Homey; clean; romantic; low key.

Music Playlists.
Genre Inoffensive background music; Jazz; folksy stuff.

Age Youngish (20-30s).

Clientele Artsy fartsy; expats; Writers or poets/Bukowski types; musicians.

Dress code People wear pretty casual stuff, but no sweat pants or anything like that.

"Do you have a queen of hearts? No, go fish!"

Food Cheeses

Notable beer Bjartur, Úlfur

Special feature Old photos and artefacts on the walls.

Primary reason to go there To chat with friends; to pretend to work on your book of poetry.

Den Danske Kro

Ingólfsstræti 3

★★★★☆

Carpets, dark-stained furniture, people there to chat, drink and sing; in England we'd call this a pub.

850 1250 950

Atmosphere: Trashy; loud; up beat.

Music Regular live music.
Genre Top 40; Europop; Golden Oldies; Icelandic hits; Danish Pop/Rock; Troubadour ALERT.

Age Youngish (20-30s); middle age (40-50s).

Clientele Tourists; expats; your average 9-5 Joe.

Dress code Smart Casual. Male: neat jeans and ironed shirt
Female: a two tone short dress.

The lyrics to popular Eagles hit "Hotel California"

Food Potato chips and, on occasion, smorrebrod.

Special feature Dartboard and big smokers' patio in front.

Primary reason to go there To drink yourself silly; to sing karaoke; to chat with friends; to have an unashamedly good time.

Dillon

Laugavegur 30

★★★★☆

Tries to be a typical American rock bar, we need at least one of those downtown.

850 1100 900

Atmosphere: Grunge; trashy; loud.

Music Playlists; DJs.
Genre Metal; RAWK; Golden Oldies; lots of classic RAWK.

Age Youngish (20-30s).

Clientele Tourists; professional drinkers; metalheads.

Dress code Jeans and leather jackets.

"We came to pick up chicks, whats happening?"

Notable beer Pils Organic; Viking Stout; Einstök.

Special feature They have a beer

garden behind the bar.

Primary reason to go there To drink yourself silly; to chat with friends; to forget.

Dubliner

Naustin 1

★★★★☆

This is a place where you can go and be middle-aged in peace and privacy.

800 1100 900

Atmosphere Trashy, Gimmicky

Music Troubadour ALERT
Genre Golden Oldies

Age Middle age (40-50s), Older (50s plus)

Clientele Tourists, Expats, Professional drinkers, Writers or poets/ Bukowski types, Conspiracy theorists

Dress code Turtlenecks, blazers and way too much perfume.

"No no no no no, Connery was the best Bond. I just won't accept another answer."

Primary reason to go there To drink yourself silly; to chat with friends; to forget.

English Pub

Austurstræti 12

★★★★☆

Once you find your way to the bar through the crowd, singing along with the troubadour you're the king!

900 1300 1000

Atmosphere Loud, Gimmicky, Packed

Music Troubadour ALERT
Genre Whatever comes up..., troubadours performing Oasis very badly

Age Middle age (40-50s), Older (50s plus)

Clientele Tourists, Expats, Professional drinkers, men mostly

Dress code Dress like a suburbanite

"TOOODAYY IS GONNA BE THE DAAAAYYY THAT THEY'RE GONNA THROW IT BACK TO YOUUUU"

Food Panini, pizza

Notable beer Guinness and Kilkenny on draft.

Special feature Wheel of beer fortune; pictures of nobel Englishmen on a walls; not a minute without a troubadour (or two).

Primary reason to go there To drink yourself silly; to find a mate; to sing karaoke; to fulfill a fantasy; to feed your ego; to network or connect; to forget.

Esja

Austurstræti 16

★★★★☆

Esja is going for an upscale club. You can reserve a table and buy Finlandia by the bottle. There is a blow drier and hair straightener in the girl's bathroom.

850 1200 990

Atmosphere: Part quiet lounge, part up-beat; meat market.

Music Playlists; DJ.
Genre R&B; techno; 90s nostalgia.

Age Youngish (20-30s).

Clientele Body builders/tan-bots; Jersey Shore.

Dress code Don't show up too casual.

"Will you come with me to the bathroom, I need to fix my hair."

Special feature Set in a beautiful old building in downtown Reykjavik designed by Guðjón Samúelsson in 1916 after someone decided that the top 2 floors of houses in Iceland should look like masonic-zionist temples gilded with Gothic romance. At the time, the building was a symbol of Iceland moving into the twentieth century and gave people something to be proud of.

Primary reason to go there To find a mate, To go dancing, To blow dry your hair

Factory

Smíðjustigur 6

★★★★☆

Faktorý used to be only a hangout for the 101 rats and musicians but lately it's been getting a little more "hnakkified". It is a mid-sized concert venue upstairs that usually has a cover,In other words. It is a confused scruffy disco-cum-concert hall.

850 1000 NA

Atmosphere: Up beat

Music Regular live music
Genre House; old skool hip-hop; Icelandic indie-party-techno.

Age Youngish (20-30s).

Clientele 101 rats; body builders/ tan-bots; musicians.

Dress code For the most part it's whatever the standard dress code for your average twenty-something Icelander is that month (Icelanders all dress the same). Now we seem to be at some strange folky-hipster-futuristic-hiphop crossroads.

"Ha!?"

Special feature It's a good place to catch up-and-coming indie bands and attend the occasional hip hop night. Downstairs has two rooms, a backroom with the usual electronic fare (house mostly) but occasionally plays host to dub and dancehall nights. The front room has a foosball table the usual tiny dance floor cramming you up against the main entrance. Low ceiling height and DJ booth in the corner by the bar. 3 bathrooms, 2 of which are working at any given time, 1 of which is likely to not be flooded.

Primary reason to go there To drink yourself silly; to find a mate; to go dancing; to listen to music; to bolster an image.

Gay 46

Hverfisgata 46

Doesn't measure up to the city's prolific gay reputation, and the dance room did not get bumpin' until 2.

600 1300 1000

Atmosphere: Clean; meat market.

Music Playlists.
Genre Top 40; Europop.

Age Youngish (20-30s), Middle age (40-50s)

Clientele Reykjavik gays.

Dress code Up to you!

"I thought gay clubs weren't supposed to be boring."

Notable beer Budweiser!

Special feature Gay 46 has a bar and a spacious seating area with tables and couches in the venue's front section. There is an area with pool tables in the middle of the building. The back room is for dancing.

Primary reason to go there To find a mate; to go dancing; to chat with friends.

Glaumbar

Tryggvagata 20

★☆☆☆☆

A party-boat on dry land.

790 1000 1000

Atmosphere: Grungy; meat market; loud; gimmicky; up beat; downright sleazy.

Music DJ
Genre House; top 40; Europop; disco; Golden Oldies.

Age Youngish (20-30s).

Clientele 101 rats; tourists; professional drinkers; celebrities; actors; legends; fishermen; Julian Assange.

Dress code Whatever. Kringlan-fancy: clean clothes from Top Shop and All Saints; Graduation caps; Fishermen in jeans and sweaters.

"Rough, tough & wild!"

Food Nachos & Burgers

Special feature Designed to look like the inside of a sailship which is actually pretty cool despite the crowd

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- and music. TVs showing Top 40 music videos on mute; foosball table; LETHAL WEAPON 3 PINBALL!
- 📍 **Primary reason to go there** To drink yourself silly; to find a mate; to go dancing; to play games; to see Julian Assange

Hótel Holt

Bergstaðastræti 37

★★★★★★

If we could afford it, we would hang out there ALL THE TIME.

🍺 **950** 🍻 **1390** 🍷 **1290**

🌍 **Atmosphere** Clean, Sophisticated, Lounge, Quiet, Romantic, Low key

🎵 **Music** Playlists
Genre Inoffensive background music; Jazz; Icelandic hits.

🕒 **Age** Middle age (40-50s), Older (50s plus)

👤 **Clientele** Artsy fartsy; business people; bankers; tourists; writers or poets/Bukowski types; celebrities; actors; legends.

👔 **Dress code** Dressy.

💬 "Look at that Kjarval! Look at THAT Kjarval!"

🍴 **Food** A whole menu of it from 16:00 on...

🍺 **Notable beer** Stella; Kaldi on tap.

★ **Special feature** The walls of the bar are overflowing with drawings and paintings by Kjarval, one of Iceland's most famous artists.

📍 **Primary reason to go there** to chat with friends; to read; to pass the time; to wait for your reservation at one of the best restaurants in Reykjavik.

Hressó

Austurstræti 20

★★★★★☆☆

Faded American diner, with leather booths next to the main window, simple tables and chairs.

🍺 **890** 🍻 **1100** 🍷 **1090**

🌍 **Atmosphere:** Loud; up beat.

🎵 **Music** Occasional live music; troubadour ALERT; playlist.
Genre RAWK; modern hipster fare; Pitchfork core.

🕒 **Age** Youngish (20-30s); middle age (40-50s).

👤 **Clientele** 101 rats; artsy fartsy; musicians; moms; dads.

👔 **Dress code** Everything goes.

💬 "Do you have a smoke?"

🍴 **Food** Plenty of appetisers, etc.

🍺 **Notable beer** Einstök.

★ **Special feature** There is a massive and beautiful courtyard where people can sit, drink, eat and (more importantly to some), there's a covered smoking area.

📍 **Primary reason to go there** To drink yourself silly; to chat with friends; to listen to music; to eat.

Íslenski

Pósthússtræti 9

★★★★☆☆

This bar is very Icelandic, from the wall decor to the food to the booze.

🍺 **750** 🍻 **1300** 🍷 **1200**

🌍 **Atmosphere** Clean; low key; gimmicky

🎵 **Music** Playlists
Genre Icelandic tunes exclusively

🕒 **Age** Youngish (20-30s), Middle age (40-50s)

👤 **Clientele** Tourists; expats; CCP gamers; Hannes Hólmsteinn.

👔 **Dress code** Totally casual

💬 "I'll have some shark and brennivín."

🍴 **Food** Nuts and stuff like that

🍺 **Notable beer** Lots of Icelandic microbrews!

★ **Special feature** They have a nice selection of Icelandic beers and you can get fermented shark and brennivín.

📍 **Primary reason to go there** To chat with friends, To network or connect

Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1

★★★★★★

An artsy drinking den of great repute, where the bartenders know more about music than you ever will. On most tourists' 'must visit' list.

🍺 **750** 🍻 **1000** 🍷 **800**

🌍 **Atmosphere** Grunge; low key.

🎵 **Music** Regular live music.
Genre Modern hipster fare; Pitchfork core.

🕒 **Age** Youngish (20-30s)

👤 **Clientele** 101 rats, Journos, Tourists, Writers or poets/ Bukowski types, Celebrities/actors/legends, Musicians

👔 **Dress code** Men sport stubble beards, wear bowler hats, band t-shirts and jackets. Women get their vintage garb from Sputnik and wear horn rimmed glasses.

💬 "Psst...does Damon Albarn own this place? Answer: Urgh."

🍺 **Notable beer** Large selection of bottled beers, including Icelandic white and pale ale.

★ **Special feature** Partially covered smoking patio; was featured in that movie.

📍 **Primary reason to go there** To drink yourself silly; to listen to music; to network or connect; to bolster an image.

Kaffi Sólon

Bankastræti 7a

★★★★☆☆

A fine place to start the evening with some dinner and drinks before going out on the town.

🍺 **950** 🍻 **1200** 🍷 **950**

🌍 **Atmosphere:** Clean; sophisticated; romantic.

🎵 **Music** Playlists
Genre Jazz

🕒 **Age** Middle age (40-50s)

👤 **Clientele** Business people; bankers; tourists.

👔 **Dress code** There is no dress code, but you might feel a little awkward walking in with jeans and a t-shirt on.

💬 "We should really buy some vitamin C."

🍴 **Food** Full kitchen open until 23:30

🍺 **Notable beer** Úlfur, Bjartur

★ **Special feature** Artist of the month displayed on their walls.

📍 **Primary reason to go there** To chat with friends; to network or connect.

Kaffi Zimsen

Hafnarstræti 18

★★★☆☆☆☆

It's really cheap!

🍺 **600** 🍻 **1000** 🍷 **750**

🌍 **Atmosphere:** Grunge; loud.

🎵 **Music** Troubadour ALERT
Genre Top 40; Golden Oldies; Whatever comes up...

🕒 **Age** Youngish (20-30s), Middle age (40-50s)

👤 **Clientele** Tourists; body builders; tan-bots.

👔 **Dress code** Tracksuits; hoodies; sweatpants!

💬 "Tourists love to eat pizza in the smoking area."

🍺 **Notable beer** Black Death!

★ **Special feature** You can buy pizza from Pizza Royale in the smoking area! They have pickup lines written on the bar tables!

📍 **Primary reason to go there** To drink yourself silly; to find a mate.

Kofi Tómasar Frænda

Laugavegur 2

★★★★☆☆

A great place for magically making eye contact with a romantic stranger.

🍺 **790** 🍻 **1000** 🍷 **990**

🌍 **Atmosphere** Homey; grunge; lounge; quiet; romantic; low key.

🎵 **Music** Playlists.
Genre Top 40; inoffensive; background music; RAWK; modern hipsterfare; pitchfork core; whatever comes up...

🕒 **Age** Too young (under 20); youngish (20-30s).

👤 **Clientele** 101 rats; artsy fartsy; tourists; expats; goths; writers or poets/Bukowski types.

👔 **Dress code** Sort of loose amalgam of vaguely fashionable street clothes and warm, comfortable Cintamani-type stuff.

💬 "I kinda wanna grab a smoke, but this couch is so comfortable."

★ **Special feature** Some pretty damn comfortable couches, apparently, and an utterly gorgeous waitress.

📍 **Primary reason to go there** To find a mate; to chat with friends; to network or connect; to forget; to read; to pretend to work on your book of poetry.

Kolabrautin

(4th floor of Harpa) Austurbakki 2

Ingólfsstræti 3

★★★★☆☆

Swanky swank swank; expensive; everyone judging me with their middle-aged eyes.

🍺 **900** 🍻 **1300** 🍷 **1050**

🌍 **Atmosphere:** Swanky; clean; lounge.

🎵 **Music** None.

🕒 **Age** Middle age (40-50s)

👤 **Clientele** Business people; bankers; tourists; Jakob Frímann; politicians.

👔 **Dress code** The dress code is somewhat fancy; men wear suits and women are in heels.

💬 Very drunk man: "Don't you put more in the glass than this?"

★ **Special feature** On the top floor of Harpa; cocktails.

📍 **Primary reason to go there** To drink yourself silly; to chat with friends; to see celebrities; to feed your ego; to bolster an image; following or proceeding a concert/ opera; for a business meeting.

Laundromat

Austurstræti 9

★★★★☆☆

A diner-style establishment that offers unique respite for those with children or without washing machines.

🍺 **900** 🍻 **1100** 🍷 **1000**

🌍 **Atmosphere:** Clean, Lounge, Loud, Gimmicky, Yankeeish

🎵 **Music** Playlists
Genre Inoffensive background music

🕒 **Age** Youngish (20-30s), Middle age (40-50s)

👤 **Clientele** 101 rats, Tourists

👔 **Dress code** Icelandic hipster, tourist-casual

💬 "Crack, quack, crack" goes the noisy coffee grinder, "pffffrrrr" sings the milk foamer, only to be interrupted by the mixer's "crrrrrrrrrrckcchhh," which was louder than the music.

🍴 **Food** Burgers, sandwiches and stuff served 'til 22:00

🍺 **Notable beer** Skjálfti, Bjartur, Corona, Leffe

★ **Special feature** Basement features coin-op washing machines and dryers (a laundromat!) and a very nice children's area with plenty of games. Also a massive wall of old Grapevines!

📍 **Primary reason to go there** To have a beer while doing your laundry, to forget about your kids for a moment.

Lebowski Bar

Laugavegur 20a

★★★★☆☆

Ostensibly, Lebowski bar is a theme bar modeled after the 1998 comedy Big Lebowski starring Jeff Bridges as a slacker and bowling-enthusiast bouncing from one ludicrous situation to another. A feeling you will come to recognise when partying in downtown Reykjavík. The theme might not be quite as nailed down as expected,

but the place looks nice and plenty of attention is paid to detail. This is a transitioning theme bar with a taste for creamy cocktails and Americana.

🍺 **850** 🍻 **1100** 🍷 **900**

🌍 **Atmosphere:** Clean; lounge; gimmicky.

🎵 **Music** Playlists.
Genre R&B; inoffensive background music; Golden Oldies; soul.

🕒 **Age** Too young (under 20); youngish (20-30s); middle age (40-50s)

👤 **Clientele** 101 rats; business people; bankers; tourists; body builders/ tan-bots; celebrities; actors; legends; young professionals; country bumpkins. It's a bit of a mixed crowd. Fancyboy 101 fella has to awkwardly elbow up next to farmer's son in an ill-fitting suit watching his White Russian turning Snookie orange as beads of tanning lotion drip from his forehead.

👔 **Dress code** Blazers and checkered shirts seem popular. Short and iffy cocktail dresses later in the evening. Pretty informal otherwise.

💬 "Shut the fuck up, Donny"

🍴 **Food** A pretty affordable and tasty burger place in the back although the burgers are quite dainty.

★ **Special feature** Downstairs offers White Russians in all kinds of strange variations, Wii Sports (set on bowling of course) and a gorgeous-looking but hideously over-priced jukebox. Upstairs is a little more loungey (before 2 in the morning) and features the biggest smoking balcony in Iceland which is not a bad choice for warm summer days (trololol - Iceland doesn't swing like that).

📍 **Primary reason to go there** To drink yourself silly; to find a mate; to chat with friends; to network or connect.

Live Pub

Frakkastigur 8

★★★★☆☆

Sports and karaoke on demand with VH1 classics all night long.

🍺 **800** 🍻 **1000** 🍷 **1000**

🌍 **Atmosphere:** Grunge; lounge; low key; sporty.

🎵 **Music** The radio.
Genre Top 40; karaoke

🕒 **Age** Youngish (20-30s), Middle age (40-50s)

👤 **Clientele** Expats; professional drinkers; Eurovision fans.

👔 **Dress code** Leather jackets and jeans. Ladies in red. Whatever you rolled out of bed in.

💬 "Don't say that about Engelbert! That's my Humperdinck!"

★ **Special feature** KARAOKE; worst ever painting of Johnny Cash; a cat walked into the bar and took a 15 minute nap on a chair until it got booted out by security (true fucking story).

📍 **Primary reason to go there** To sing karaoke; to chat with friends; to play games; to feed your ego; to find your missing cat.

Næsti bar

Ingólfsstræti 1a

★★★★☆☆

As neutral and un-exciting as Switzerland.

🍺 **750** 🍻 **1100** 🍷 **900**

🌍 **Atmosphere:** Quiet

🎵 **Music** The radio
Genre Top 40; whatever comes up...

🕒 **Age** Youngish (20-30s)

👤 **Clientele** Nonexistent, other than the boyfriend of the barmaid.

👔 **Dress code** The barmaid's boyfriend was wearing jeans.

💬 None was uttered.

🍴 **Food** They sometimes offer complimentary nuts.

★ **Special feature** They have a lot of special offers on cocktails.

📍 **Primary reason to go there** To read; to pretend to work on your book of poetry.

Pingholtisbar

Pingholtisræti 5

★★★★☆☆

A slick and quiet hotel lounge bar.

🍺 **33cl** 🍻 **1300** 🍷 **1100**

🌍 **Atmosphere:** Clean; sophisticated; lounge.

🎵 **Music** Playlists
Genre Inoffensive background music; lounge music.

	romantic; low key; not loud but not quiet either; classy, but not posh; straight-forward; cozy.
	Music No fucking music, except when there is occasional live music
	Genre I told you already, no fucking music.
	Age Youngish (20-30s), Middle age (40-50s)
	Clientele 101 rats; artsy fartsy; tourists; expats; writers or poets/Bukowski types; musicians.
	Dress code Casual dress-code. Though there is definitely some hipster fare.
	"Hey, I like your scarf!"
	Food They have a whole bar snacks menu: salted nuts, nut mix, lemon marinated olives, chocolate with chili and nuts, hardfiskur with butter, bone marrow with toasted bread, dates wrapped in bacon.
	Notable beer Stout, Kex Special, Pale Ale
	Special feature Good selection of beer; big patio; often have concerts; decor is all hand-selected, deliciously vintage; super hip but also cosy. Comes with a hostel attached.
	Primary reason to go there To chat with friends; to listen to music; to play games; to see celebrities; to pretend to work on your book of poetry.

Obladi Oblada

Laugavegur 45a

★★★★☆☆

Ladies, don't come here on your own, as you have to fight your way passed the regulars, but if it wasn't for the regulars it would be a nice and cheap hang out bar.

	800		1100		700
	Atmosphere: Gimmicky; low key; sleazy		Music Playlists; occasional live music		Genre Golden Oldies; Beatles, Beatles, Beatles.
	Age Middle age (40-50s), Older (50s plus)		Clientele Professional drinkers.		Dress code Clothes. You are here to drink, not to look good.
	"It was my day. What the fuck! I had cake. You just get beautifully stupid."		Notable beer Krombacher		Special feature Comfortable leather couches. And The Beatles on all walls.
	Primary reason to go there To drink yourself silly.				

Prikið

Bankastræti 12

★★★★★☆☆

Laid back cool kids and funky beats.

	690		1000		800
	Atmosphere Homey; low key.		Music DJ		Genre R&B; blues; rap; hip-hop; breakbeat.
	Age Too young (under 20), Youngish (20-30s)		Clientele 101 rats; artsy fartsy; professional drinkers; writers or poets/Bukowski types; conspiracy theorists; anarchists; celebrities; actors; legends; musicians; potheads; fashionistas.		Dress code Hippie-hip hop upscale chic; buffalo; fur and gold; always the latest kicks.
	"Hér er krútt-swag með kærleik í hjarta whoop whoop!" ("This is cute-swag with love in our hearts whoop whoop!")		Food Burgers and all sorts of other stuff.		Notable beer Guinness.
	Special feature Huge smoking area; basketball court; graffiti space. Upstairs deck and patio; kitchen open late; diner atmosphere; booths!		Primary reason to go there To find a mate; to chat with friends; to bolster an image; to pretend to work on your book of poetry; to toke on a doobie.		

	Reykjavík Backpackers
	Laugavegur 28
	★★★★★☆☆

A nice place to meet other tourists and maybe find your true love from the exotic country you've always dreamt about. However, the guy wearing the wedding dress kinda scared me.

	850		1100		800
	Atmosphere: Lounge; loud; up beat.		Music Occasional live music.		Genre Top 40; europop; whatever comes up...
	Age Youngish (20-30s)		Clientele Tourists		Dress code No dress code, in fact you'd probably fit in more if you tried to dress touristy.
	"A: "You've dug yourself a grave and I can't fix your life for you." (Completely random translation) A: "So you're completley deaf in one ear?" B: " Yeah, I just hear low frequencies, which is nice if I go home with a girl and she keeps talking I can just turn my head and I don't hear a thing."		Food Sandwiches and snacks (chips, cookies).		Notable beer Boli; Polar Beer.
	Special feature Airline style seating, foosball table, large outdoor patio. And hey, it's a hostel so if you are to drunk to go home feel free to rent a room for the night.		Primary reason to go there To find a mate; to chat with friends; to play games; to network or connect.		

Úrilla Górilla

Austurstræti 12

★★★★★☆☆

Where the tan girls and young skinkas meet football geeks, college guys, troubadours and BBQ burgers.

	850		1200		900
	Atmosphere: Clean, Quiet, Gimmicky, Low key, Sporty		Music Troubadour ALERT		Genre R&B, House, Europop, MTV dance channel
	Age Youngish (20-30s)		Clientele Body builders/tan-bots; high school cheerleaders; their bully boyfrienders; football fans and beer-lovers.		Dress code It didn't seem like anybody was trying to make an effort to look hip, although we spotted one heavy hair-gelled boy with a diamond earring.
	"Hahahahah"		Food American/Mexican fast food		Special feature There are a few tables on the second floor by the TV screen with personal built-in beer tap (you can order a 25-litre can or less). Also, they have a huge smoking balcony with nice view over Austurvöllur; Pacman slot machines; comfy sofas; a spacey dancefloor and plenty of dark corners to cry your eyes out if your football team has lost.
	Primary reason to go there To find a mate; to go dancing; to chat with friends; to play games; to watch football championship on a big screen and drink beer from your personal tap; to feel old and wise.				

Slippbarinn (Icelandair Hótel Reykjavík Marina)

Mýrargata 2-8

Ingólfstræti 3

★★★★☆☆☆

It's a bit uppity, everyone looks like they just came from their job at the bank.

	950		1280		1000
	Atmosphere Swanky; clean; sophisticated; quiet.		Music Playlists		Genre Inoffensive background music
	Age Youngish (20-30s), Middle age (40-50s)		Clientele Business people; bankers; celebrities; actors; legends.		Dress code BUSINESS CASUAL

	"There was crab salad and deep fried lobster..."
	Food They have a whole menu of it until 22:00
	Notable beer Guinness; Borg; Kilkenny.
	Special feature Right by 'slippurinn', where the ships come in to be painted/repaired, which is a really novel location.
	Primary reason to go there To drink yourself silly; to chat with friends; to see celebrities; to feed your ego; to network or connect; to bolster an image.

Strawberries

Lækjargata 6a

★★★☆☆☆☆

The decor is moderately cosy and they serve expensive champagne. If scantily clad women are your thing, it's the only place of this kind in downtown Reykjavik.

	1000		1500		1500
	Atmosphere Clean, Meat market, Gimmicky		Music Playlists		Genre R&B, Top 40
	Age Youngish (20-30s), Middle age (40-50s)		Clientele Business people/bankers - , Tourists .		Dress code The female employees have a pretty strict skin code.
	"Are you writing for Grapevine? They were just in here a couple of months ago" --Bartender.		Special feature There are about 10 scantily clad women hanging around the bar who will propably talk to you if you buy champagne.		Primary reason to go there To drink yourself silly; to fulfill a fantasy; to feed your ego; to forget.

Thorvaldsen

Austurstræti 8-10

★★★☆☆☆☆

Elegant sleekness accentuated by hip, modern urbanism!

	900		1000		1000
	Atmosphere: Swanky; clean; sophisticated; classy.		Music DJ.		Genre R&B; top 40; Europop; disco; New Wave; 90s dance.
	Age Middle age (40-50s).		Clientele Business people; bankers; expats; body builders/tan-bots; mallrats; people from Grafarvogur; Sex & The City watchers.		Dress code Lots of black, very clean. Women in leggings with large, fancy tunic shirts/short dress on top, sky-high heels. Men in jeans and blazers with dress shoes, aka the look Kanye West invented and now hates.
	"They won't give us a group discount!"		Food Small bar tapas		Special feature Salsa dancing on Thursday nights (sometimes Wednesday), massive selection of specialty cocktails, good wine list.
	Primary reason to go there To find a mate, To go dancing, Salsa., To chat with friends, To fulfill a fantasy, To feed your ego, To bolster an image				

Vegamót

Vegamótastígur 4

★★★★★☆☆

It's a meat market.

	1000		1200		900
	Atmosphere Grunge; sophisticated; meat market; lounge; loud, up beat.		Music DJ		Genre R&B; top 40; hip-hop and plenty of it.
	Age Too young (under 20); youngish (20-30s).		Clientele Hip-hop kids, all of them.		Dress code Tight t-shirts with designer prints; expensive haircuts. The girls have knee-high boots and sport some proud cleavage.
	"Bryan Ferry? Who's that?"		Food Bistro food during the day,		

	including a respectable brunch menu
	Special feature It's full of weird little nooks and places to sit and talk, including an upstairs lounge with a second bar.
	Primary reason to go there To find a mate; to go dancing; to chat with friends; to fulfill a fantasy; to feed your ego; to network or connect; to bolster an image.

Vitabar

Bergþórugata 21

★★★★★☆☆

An authentic Icelandic drinking establishment often lauded for its hamburgers.

	750		950		950
	Atmosphere Grunge; trashy; quiet; low key.		Music The radio.		Genre Golden Oldies; Icelandic hits; whatever comes up.
	Age Youngish (20-30s); middle age (40-50s); older (50s plus).		Clientele 101 rats; artsy fartsy; body builders/tan-bots; professional drinkers; writers or poets/Bukowski types; Helgi Björns; people from pretty much all walks of life can be found here at any given time.		Dress code Whatever, really.
	"How about that Albanian Eurovision song? That was really something."		Food Renowned for its burgers, the blue cheese burger is admittedly delectable.		Special feature The blue cheese burger. Fucking go eat it right now. Oh, and they also serve steak, which is best avoided.
	Primary reason to go there To chat with friends; to grab a burger or beer or combination of the two.				

Ölstofa Kormáks og Skjaldar

Vegamótastígur 4

★★★★★☆☆

Just a great bar to hang out for a taste of the nightlife of Icelandic artsy/intellectual types.

	800		1100		900
	Atmosphere: Loud; "Icelandic intellectual."		Music Playlists.		Genre Inoffensive background music; modern hipsterfare; Pitchfork core.
	Age Youngish (20-30s); middle age (40-50s); older (50s plus).		Clientele Artsy fartsy; journos; professional drinkers; writers or poets/Bukowski types; middle aged scenesters.		Dress code Just what you would expect at a congregation of intellectual types (and those who wish to be mistaken as intellectual types) in their 30s and 40s who are determined to get drunk. Also, a nice beard does not look out of place at this bar.
	"Shouldn't you be home writing your dissertation?"		Notable beer Huge beer selection - including excellent house beer, Brio		Special feature Dartboard and big smokers' patio in front. Ölstofan has a house-beer, Brio, which is brewed specifically for Ölstofan. Brio recently won the gold medal as the "best German-Style Pilsener in the world" at the World Beer Cup 2012 contest held in California. And it is actually pretty good - well worth trying out.
	Primary reason to go there To drink yourself silly; to feed your ego; to bolster an image.				

Ölsmiðjan

Lækjargata 10

★★★★☆☆☆

Looking for a pub feel, which it has before the evening drinkers arrive and the pregame drinking show begins.

	490		1150		900
	Atmosphere: Clean; loud.		Music Playlists		Genre Top 40.
	Age Too young (under 20); youngish (20-30s).		Clientele Tourists and locals alike.		Dress code Young folks decked

out in whatever you see on everyone walking down Laugavegur (yet they make it seem like their individual style). Gore-tex/flannel tourist costume (complete with big camera and writing journal) for those who haven't yet got their visitor's uniform from 66° North or whatever."

	"Gaur! Where should we go next?"
	Food Nachos and cheese from a machine + one draught beer for 1090
	Notable beer El Grillo
	Two floors but the second floor seems to be for reservations only. A "spin the wheel get a drink deal" jobby behind the bar; doesn't seem to be in use all too often.
	To drink yourself silly; to chat with friends.

(This page is a stub. You can help Wikitravel by expanding it.)

Note: Þýski barinn (The German Bar) was closed when our reviewer visited. On two occasions.