



TOURISM, CULTURE AND BUSINESS

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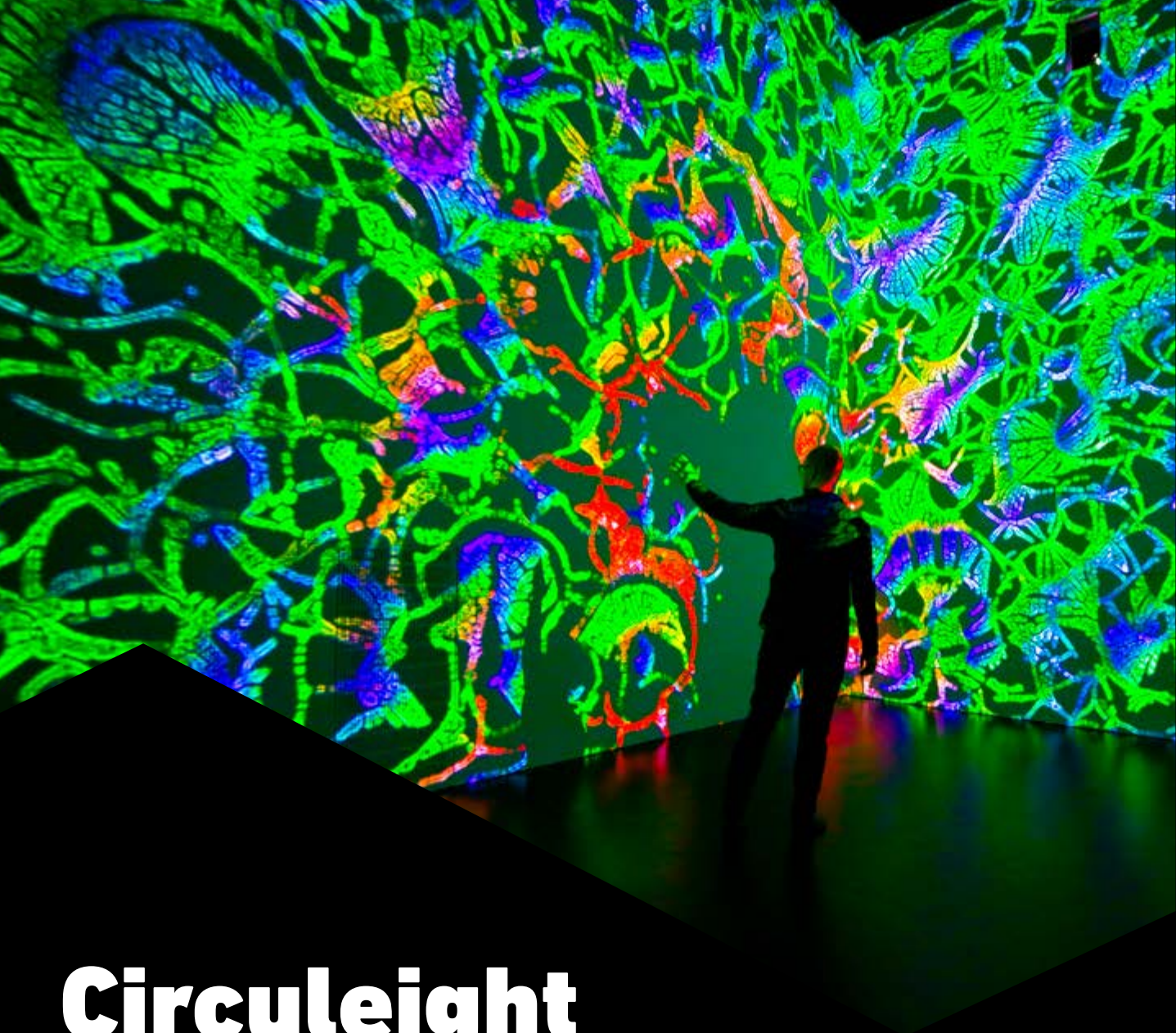
Vestmannaeyjar Marks 50 Years Since Eruption
Landsvirkjun Focuses on Energy Transition
Alþingi: The House of the Icelandic Nation
Carbfix Innovates Clean Energy Technology
Vatnajökull: Gateway to the Water Glacier

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Circuleight

An innovative installation that features designs and real-time interactive visuals inspired by Icelandic nature and original music by renowned Icelandic composer Högni Egilsson.



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Three Locations

In the Center
of Reykjavík



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National Gallery
of Iceland

Fríkirkjuvegur 7
101 Reykjavík



Safnahúsið
The House of
Collections

Hverfisgata 15
101 Reykjavík



Hús Ásgríms Jónssonar
Home of an Artist

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101 Reykjavík

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The first day of summer in Iceland is celebrated in the middle of April. The promise of summer offers the best weather to explore all of Iceland's outdoor activities, such as hiking, diving, whale-watching, glacier-walking, bird-watching, and swimming. The landscape changes, edging towards green and lush and the days get longer.

Summer is the perfect time to visit Iceland with its unrivalled beauty, gorgeous vistas and unique experiences, making it the ideal getaway. Choose to explore on your own or take some specialised tours with expert guides in every region of the country.

In this issue, we feature several towns to visit, including the beautiful Vestmannaeyjar (the Westman Islands). On the morning of the 23rd January, 1973, a volcanic eruption changed the lives of the people that called the Westman Islands home. This summer, Vestmannaeyjar will be holding a celebration at the beginning of July to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the eruption. At Eldheimar, events will be organised, including art exhibitions and concerts.

Iceland is not limited to its natural beauty. Also featured in the issue are companies taking on energy issues in Iceland. Landsvirkjun is working on two projects to create fuel for electricity: a green hydrogen project and a methanol project intended to support the energy transition in transport. Additionally, the company is aiming to become carbon neutral by 2025.

Meanwhile, Carbfix is using its carbon capture technology to tackle the climate crisis. Carbfix has operated its technology on an industrial scale in Iceland since 2012 and has mineralised over 80.000 tonnes of CO₂, showing the world how to run on clean energy.

One trip to Iceland is never enough. Make sure you venture outside of Reykjavík to enjoy the beauty and culture of the countryside. Your Iceland adventure awaits!

Einar Th. Thorsteinsson



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Icelandic language

Icelandic is one of the European root languages, like Latin. There is no 'c' or 'z' in modern Icelandic, except in foreign words. However, it still contains some letters not found in most other languages. This basic list provides a general idea of their sounds, using familiar words rather than phonetics.

Character	Pronunciation
á	Like 'ow' in 'cow'
æ	Like the personal pronoun 'I'
ð	Like 'th' in 'with'
þ	Like 'th' in 'thing'

How to make use of QR codes



Use your QR code reader application on your smartphone or iPad to scan the QR codes. QR code reader applications can be downloaded free for all makes of smartphones



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TINY HOUSE –LONG HISTORY

The Guard's House in Grjótaþorpið, at Garðastræti 23, is believed to have been built around 1845 by Guard Guðmundur Gissurason. The Grjótaþorp could be called the first suburb of Reykjavík, but poor people built their homes there on a slope west of Kvosin in downtown Reykjavík. The Guard's House is probably the first wooden house built in Grjótaþorpið. It can be said that guards were the predecessors of police officers. They walked around the town and checked to ensure everything was OK, like alerting if there was a fire and being on the lookout for anything that could be considered abnormal.

The guards also had hourglasses and sang so-called watch verses every hour according to an old and good European custom so that the people of Reykjavík knew how the time was passing. Guðmundur Gissurason and his family lived in this house, but he was Reykjavík's guard from 1830 to 1865. The house was preserved in 2001. The Antiquities Preservation took over the building in 2008 from the City of Reykjavík for restoration, which was completed in 2010.



The Guard's House, Garðastræti 23, built around 1845



THE MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART COLLECTS

The Museum of Design and Applied Art collects, preserves, researches and exhibits Icelandic design from the beginning of the 20th century to the present day.

This year the exhibition, At home in the Design Museum, features around 200 objects from the museum's collection.

The exhibition is displayed as a blueprint of a home where various objects from different eras come together side by side. Furniture, tableware, books and textiles are displayed and exemplify a fraction of what Icelandic designers and artisans have been creating.

The designer in residency until 14th of May is Ada Stańczak a ceramic designer



Photographs: Studio Fræ

and material researcher based in Reykjavík. She received her education in cultural studies at the University of Warsaw and in ceramics at The Reykjavík School of Visual Arts. Moving to Iceland sparked her interest in exploring the notion of belonging to a particular country by working with materials like clay, soil, lava and stone – elements taken from her new domain.

The Stiftung Buchkunst, a German book design association, has awarded the prize for the best book design from all over the world every year since 1963. Fourteen books received prizes in 2022 and they can all be viewed at the museum until 2nd. of April.

On the 28th of April the museum will open two new exhibitions as part of

DesignMarch a local design festival. The exhibition Presence showcases „new“ sweaters by textile designer Ýrurari. In harmony with Ýrurari's former work the sweaters are mended in a playful and humorous way lighting up the everyday. The show Habitations opening the same day displays the most eccentric apartment complex one can imagine. Built by 4th graders who took part in a workshop related to the exhibition At Home in the Design Museum.

OPENING HOURS: Daily from 12-17 except Mondays





**NATIONAL MUSEUM
OF ICELAND**



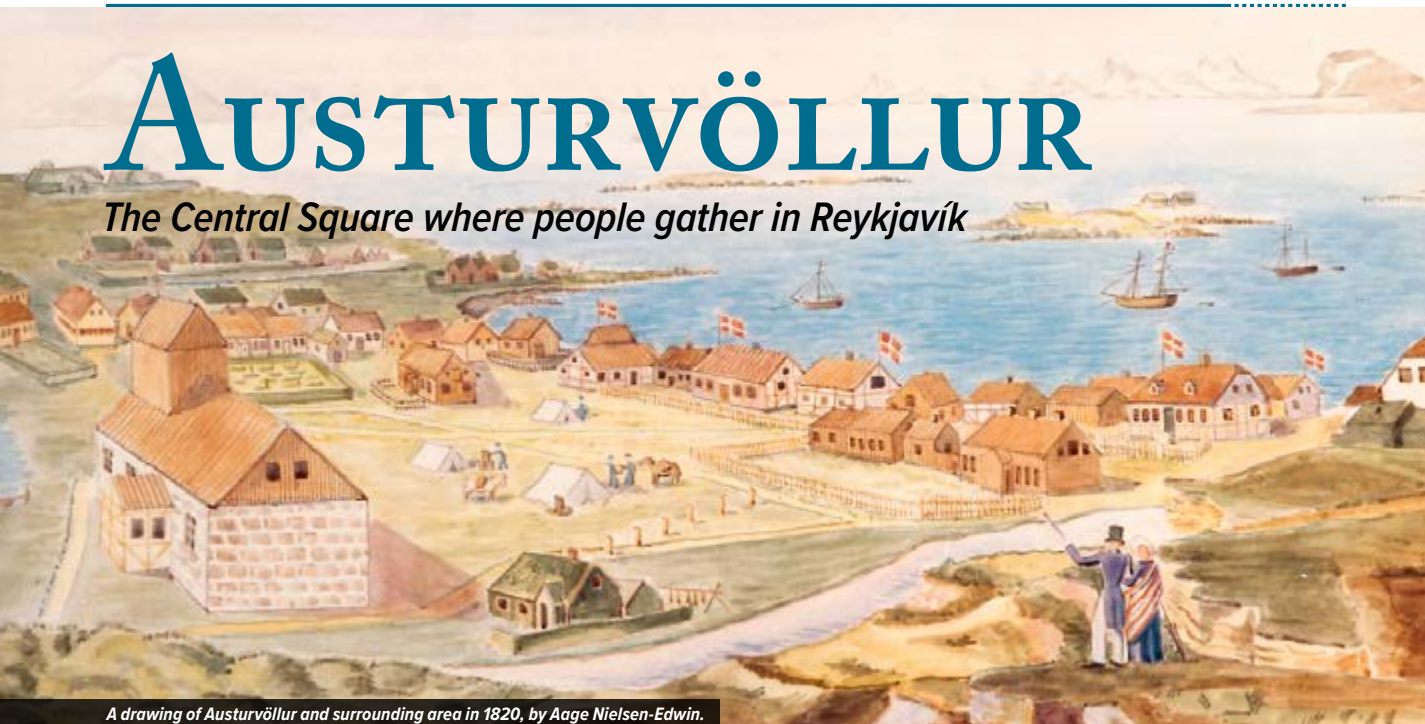
FROM VÍKING ERA TO MODERN TIMES



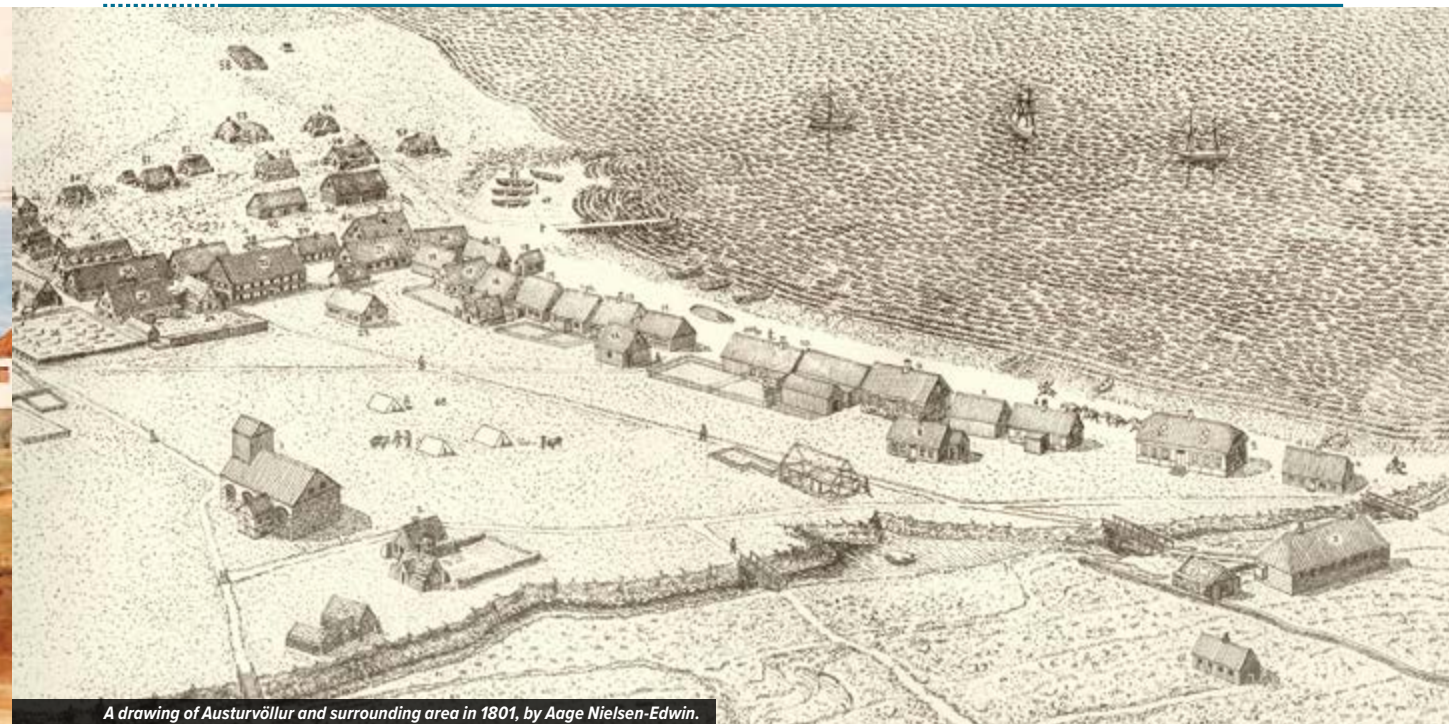
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AUSTURVÖLLUR

The Central Square where people gather in Reykjavík



A drawing of Austurvöllur and surrounding area in 1820, by Aage Nielsen-Edwin.



A drawing of Austurvöllur and surrounding area in 1801, by Aage Nielsen-Edwin.

In olden times, when Reykjavík was simply a farm, Austurvöllur (the East Field) was its best grassfield, and much larger than it is today. It extended over much of what is now the old centre of Reykjavík: from Aðalstræti to Lækjargata, and from Hafnarstræti to the Lake.

When Reykjavík Cathedral was built in 1788-90, rock was quarried nearby and stored on Austurvöllur.

By the early 1800s the field was in a poor state due to overuse and turf-cutting (for construction). As a result the town magistrate banned unauthorised turf-cutting.

In 1806 he stated that it had once been a fine, useful field, but was now nothing but a neglected peat-bog. At that time, dumping of ash and refuse on the field was prohibited, but no other measures were

taken. The field was marshy and uneven, and unsuitable for building.

As the village of Reykjavík grew, it gradually encroached on the field. In the



Scottish sheep grazing on Austurvöllur in 1932
 Photo. Magnús Ólafsson

19th century it served as a campsite for countrymen visiting the town, and also for early tourists.

In 1874 the town council of Copenhagen presented a statue to the people of Reykjavík: a self-portrait by Icelandic-Danish sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen. The town council chose a place for it in the middle of Austurvöllur, and in the summer of 1875 the field was fenced, levelled and turfed, and paths were made. The sculpture was ceremonially unveiled on 19 November 1875, the artist's birthday. It was Reykjavík's first public sculpture.

In 1930 the fence was removed, opening the square, and in 1931 the Thorvaldsen statue was moved to the Hljómskálagarður park, to make way for a statue of Jón Sigurðsson (1811-79), leader of Iceland's

19th-century independence movement, by sculptor Einar Jónsson.

In the early 20th century an artificial skating rink was often created in winter on the square, which was popular with the townspeople.

Many entertainments and social events have taken place on the square over the years, and the people of Reykjavík have traditionally gathered here, in front of Parliament House, whether to celebrate or to protest. At one of the first protest meetings, in 1905, thousands objected to the laying of an undersea telephone cable to Iceland. On 30 March 1949 a protest against Iceland joining NATO led to violence; police used truncheons and teargas on the crowds. Every year people gather on Austurvöllur to celebrate National Day on 17 June, when

a wreath is laid before the statue of Jón Sigurðsson; and in December crowds come to see the lights lit on a Christmas tree, a gift from the people of Oslo.

After the Icelandic economy collapsed in the autumn of 2008, Austurvöllur was again the scene of protests. People gathered, listened to speeches, and hammered on pots and pans to express their rage, in what has become known as the Kitchenware Revolution.

Austurvöllur, in its present form was designed by Sigurður Albert Jónsson, former chief of The Reykjavík Botanical Gardens, and presented to the city by Hafliði Jónsson, former chief of Reykjavík Parks Department; in 1999 the plan was simplified and renewed, to designs by landscape architect Þórólfur Jónsson.

Reykjavík's Historical Plaques

In recent years the City of Reykjavík has been installing plaques at historic sites around the city. The markers display pictures and information about the site's history, art, literature and social life. This is the information displayed at the Austurvöllur Central Square.

Text and photos: Reykjavík City Museum
 See more at www.reykjavikcitymuseum.is



Austurvöllur in 1905. A statue of Bertel Thorvaldsen, later relocated to Hljómskálagarðurinn Park.
 Photo. Magnús Ólafsson



Tug-of-war on Austurvöllur in 1912. Photo. Magnús Ólafsson



Celebrations on Austurvöllur as women in Iceland gained the right to vote, June 19th 1915. Photo. Magnús Ólafsson



Women's Freedom Day celebrated on Austurvöllur, June 19th 1919. Photo. Magnús Ólafsson



Lighting the lights on the Oslo Tree in December 1983.
 Photo. Jim Smart

BEST OF ICELAND

Best of Iceland is a diverse and informative book with Icelandic Times content about different towns, history, culture, museums, galleries, design, art, poetry, writing, hotels, restaurants and spas. There you can read about Icelandic nature, mountains, rivers, lakes, glaciers, hot springs, volcanic eruptions, fishing, whale watching, hiking, horseback riding, skiing, snowmobiling, the highlands, midnight sun and northern Lights. Interesting content for all about Reykjavík and nearby towns, Reykjanes, the West, the Westfjords, the North, the East and the South.

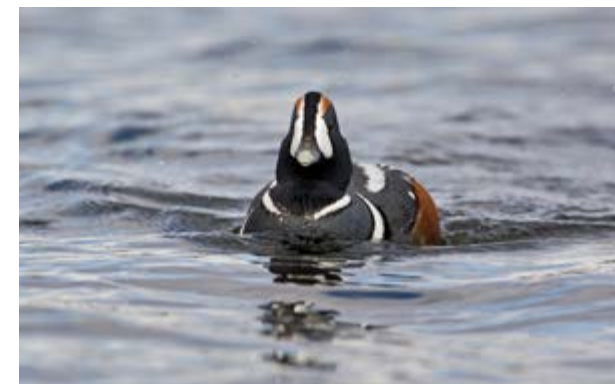
There is material about our artists Matthías Jochumson, Jónas Hallgrímsson, Halldór Laxness, Gunnlaugur Scheving, Einar Þorsteinn Ásgeirsson and Hallgrímur Pétursson. Also to be found in Best of Iceland are great articles about historic places such as Þingvellir, Skálholt, Hólar in Hjaltadalur and Jón Sigurðsson's Hrafnseyri.

Analysis by Haraldur Sigurðsson, a geoscientist in the United States, on the volcanic eruptions at Fagradalsfjall, amazing highland pictures by Þorsteinn Ásgeirsson, Iceland's energy sector in Green Economy, RVK studio and Truenorth serving Hollywood and Iceland: The Most Important Fishing Nation in Europe.

There is also a detailed conversation with former president Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson [1996-2016] about Icelandic energy expansion that is transforming China: The Iceland-China Model. A special co-operation that is taking place between the two countries, it goes on quietly in Iceland but attracts a lot of foreign attention. On history there can also be found the classic writings by Hjalmar R. Bárdarson [1918-2009] about Vikings and settlement.

Best of Iceland has a unique position when it comes to the promotion of Iceland with all the opportunities and activities that are available and an overview of tourism that you can not find anywhere else.

An ideal gift for friends, business contacts and travellers in Iceland and abroad.



64° REYKJAVÍK DISTILLERY: QUALITY CRAFTED SPIRITS

An independent distillery with unique spirits and liqueurs

64° Reykjavík Distillery is a family-run, independent micro-distillery that handcrafts unique Icelandic-inspired spirits and liqueurs. Popular among locals and visitors alike, the spirits feature flavours including blueberry, juniper, crowberry and rhubarb. The distillery, which was founded in 2009, uses handcrafted processes to create the spirits including natural infusion and

small batch distillation. The ingredients are sourced sustainably, and are proudly foraged locally in Iceland. Great care is spent in selecting the best ingredients as the unique quality and intensity of the berries are key to the rich flavours of the spirits. There is a short window for foraging berries in Iceland, so the pickers must time the season perfectly to collect the best berries.

The spirits, which can be enjoyed in mixed drinks or on their own, can be found in the finest restaurants and bars in Iceland as well as in state-run liquor stores.

Something for everyone

There is a flavour to suit every taste: the blueberry, crowberry and rhubarb liqueurs are on the sweet side and are great for cocktails or to enjoy along with a dessert.

Reykjavík Distillery's Einiberja (juniper) is a delicious gin that has an elegant, pure, yet intense and crisp flavour. Meanwhile, the company's Brennivín packs a bit of a punch. Distilled from the best organic caraway seeds and local angelica seeds, 64° Brennivín is enjoyed neat with traditional Icelandic food. Lately, local and international bartenders have discovered 64° Brennivín, along with other 64° Reykjavík Distillery spirits, to design fantastic cocktails. -JG



Reykjavík Distillery

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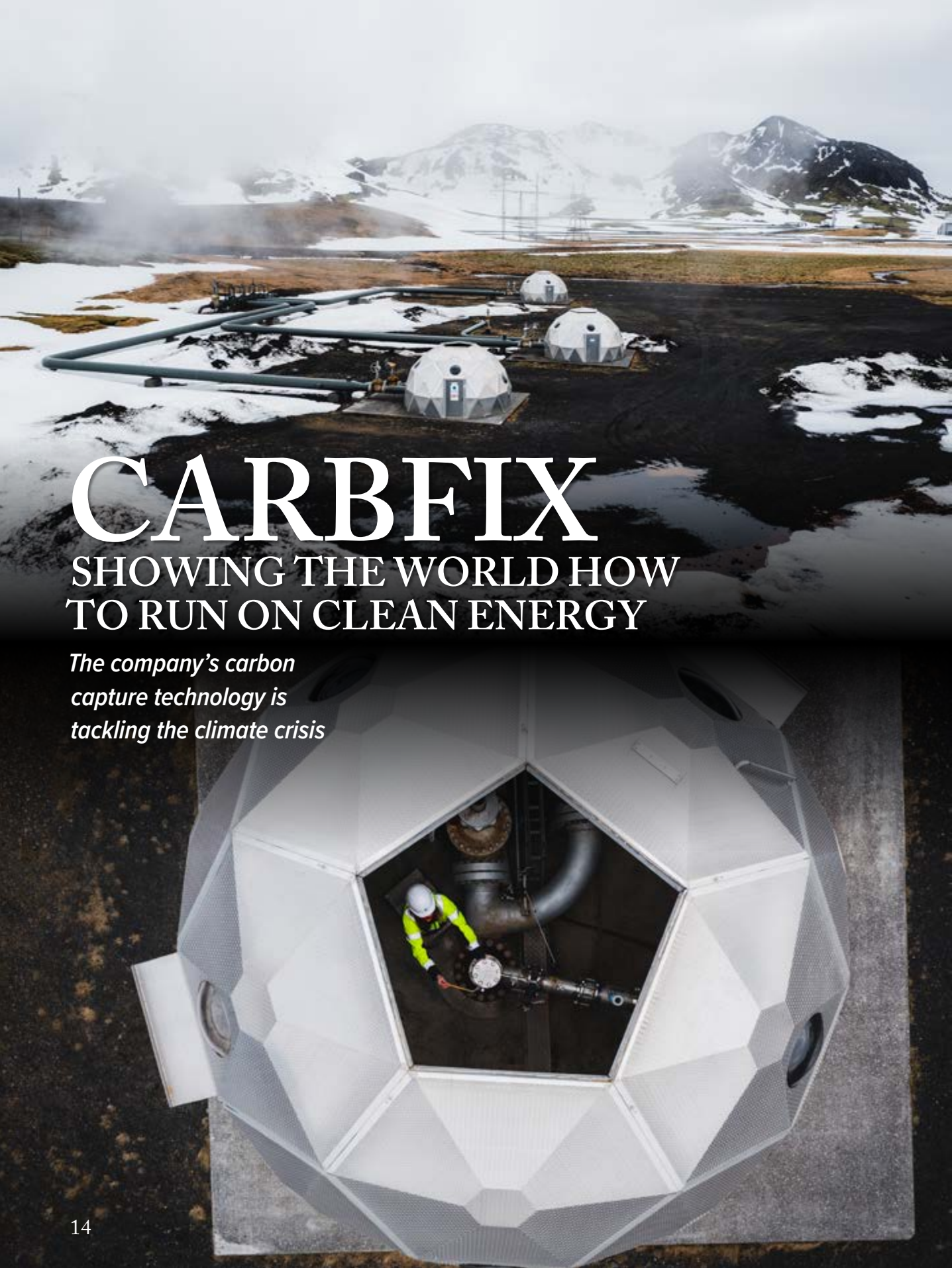
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 THE ORIGINAL FROM ICELAND



CARBFIX

SHOWING THE WORLD HOW TO RUN ON CLEAN ENERGY

The company's carbon capture technology is tackling the climate crisis

Carbfix was established in Iceland in 2007 as an international research collaboration to explore whether nature's way of storing CO₂ could be accelerated by dissolving it in water and letting it mineralise in porous rocks underground. The company started test injections of CO₂ captured from a nearby geothermal power plant in 2011, and the process was proven to work much faster than expected. It turns out that within two years after injection, almost all of the CO₂ has mineralised and is safely and permanently stored deep underground as carbonate minerals. Carbfix has operated this technology on an industrial scale in Iceland since 2012 and has mineralised over 80,000 tonnes of CO₂.

Carbfix is involved with several interesting projects, and its most recent project is Coda Terminal, a planned CO₂ transport and mineralisation hub in Iceland. Coda is scheduled to commence operations in 2026 and reach a capacity of 3 million tonnes of CO₂ per year in 2031. In 2021, Carbfix started mineralising CO₂ the Swiss company Climeworks captures directly from the atmosphere at their Orca DAC plant in Iceland. The company is also working to increase the proportion of CO₂ they capture and store from the Hellisheiði geothermal plant from one-third to almost 100 per cent. This year, Carbfix started injecting CO₂ emitted from a second geothermal plant in Iceland.

Iceland is an ideal location for a company with Carbfix's mission, as Iceland has abundant porous basaltic rock formations required for the company's method. However, basalt can be found in approximately 5% of the continents, and the majority of the ocean floor, so there are many other locations around the globe where Carbfix's technology could be used.

The scaling of carbon capture and storage is necessary to achieve the world's climate goals. Carbfix's primary focus is reducing the world's dependence on fossil fuels. However, some industries and processes don't have alternative solutions, leaving carbon capture and storage the only option to prevent their emissions from being released into the atmosphere.



Furthermore, Carbfix is an essential part of Iceland's achieving carbon neutrality by 2040. Applying the Carbfix technology to permanently store CO₂ emissions from geothermal power plants and emissions from power-intensive industries is a significant contribution to Iceland's goal of carbon neutrality and Iceland's targets and international obligations in terms of emission reductions.

Company executives believe that their safe, permanent and cost-effective carbon mineralisation technology can and will significantly tackle the climate crisis. Carbfix technology is agnostic to

the source of CO₂ so that the company can mineralise either CO₂ captured from industries or directly from the atmosphere. Fortunately, the importance of capturing and storing CO₂ – in addition to other efforts – is now universally recognised by policymakers. Carbfix believes the future is bright, but its technology and other technologies must be scaled up quickly for the world to reach its climate targets.



Carbfix
<https://carbfix.com/>



REYKJAVÍK'S NEW LIFESTYLE DESTINATION

Hafnartorg hosts more than 30 shops and restaurants



Hafnartorg Gallery is a brand-new elegant space with shopping, food, wine and culture in the heart of the old harbour district in downtown Reykjavík. Here, you can spend the day with over 30 stores and restaurants and tourist attractions nearby.

Premier shops

Hafnartorg Gallery opened in August, marking the latest part of the Hafnartorg area, which has been built up over the last 10 years. It's home to Iceland's first and only North Face store. Opening its doors in mid-2022, North Face is a long-awaited addition to Reykjavík's list of international brands. Furthermore, Iceland's-own 66 North has its flagship store in Hafnartorg Gallery, where locals and tourists alike outfit themselves in stylish clothing made to withstand Iceland's elements. For those looking for elegant and unique home furnishings, Casa Boutique offers Icelandic and international designs ranging from luxury tea kettles to artisanal salts to leather handbags.

More shops are located in the Hafnartorg area, including GK Reykjavík, COS, H&M, Levi's, Bio Effect, Collections, Michelsen, and Optical Studio.

Food and wine

An array of dining options await guests at Hafnartorg Gallery; there's something for everyone. A brand-new food hall allows visitors to choose from many different types of cuisine. Neo offers New York-inspired pizza from Flatey and a great selection of craft beers, and Kualua serves delectable Hawaiian poke bowls. Meanwhile, Fuego uses fresh, authentic ingredients for its Mexican tacos and quesadillas, and Black Dragon is a delightful French-Asian fusion spot.

Additionally, three restaurants pair delicious food with carefully-selected wine lists. Akur focuses on French cuisine, while La Trattoria is a high-end Italian restaurant and wine bar, and BRAND is Japanese-influenced wine and grill bar.

Nearby tourist attractions

Hafnartorg Gallery is close to many of the city's main attractions, including Harpa Concert Hall for concerts and exhibitions, whale watching tours departing from the harbour, and Kolaportið for shopping in Iceland's #1 indoor market. Also nearby are the family-friendly favourites Whales of Iceland and FlyOver Iceland. In Hafnartorg, guests can visit the world-renowned Icelandic Phalological Museum and the newly opened Skor, where you can enjoy games of darts, sing karaoke and grab burgers and drinks for a casual time.

Centre of culture

In November, Hafnartorg Gallery will begin hosting exhibitions, with the intent



of the space being a centre of culture in the harbour district. Musician Högni Egilsson from the bands GusGus and Hjaltalín will host a show that will combine music with an art installation. Other artists will present shows in the space, bringing an artistic element to the area.

Convenient parking

Hafnartorg Gallery is easy to access as the country's largest and most advanced parking garage lies beneath the area, with enough spaces for 1,200 cars. Travellers never have to worry about where to leave their rental car when visiting Hafnartorg Gallery. The area also has excellent cycling and hiking trails, and Hafnartorg is well-connected to the Strætó bus system.

The area is a great starting point for a day of shopping in the city centre, a rest between destinations or a place to enjoy food and drinks before the cultural event. Make sure to spend some time at Hafnartorg Gallery during your trip to Reykjavík. -JG



Hafnartorg Gallery
Geirsgötu 17, 101 Reykjavík
www.hafnartorggallery.is



BACK 200 YEARS



Alba Davíðsdóttir and Kári Pálsson going back 200 years in time at Árbæjarsafn

66 years ago, the city of Reykjavík decided to turn Árbær, a rural country town that was going desert, and is in the best place in the city land, in Artúnsbrekka, with a great view of the capital, into a museum. There old houses that made up the city center before be moved and rebuilt, for future generations. The oldest house at Árbæjarsafn is Hansenhús, built 200 years ago, in 1823 at Austurvöllur, by Simon Hansen, a merchant who lived there until 1847. The house was moved from Pósthússtræti to Árbæjarsafn in 1960. Many important people later lived in the house, such as Jón Árnason, folklore collector, Sigurður Guðmundsson our first real painter, and Sigfús Eymundsson bookseller and photographer. All the buildings in the museum have a significant history, and there is no place or museum in Iceland where you can travel to the past as quickly as in Árbæjarsafn, which is now almost in the center of the capital. Icelandic Times / Land & Saga looked at it.



Sleeping area in Árbær



Árbæjarkirkja, built in Silfrastaðir in Skagafjörður in 1842, moved to Árbæjarsafn in 1960



The exhibition Neyzlan in Reykjavík in the 20th century



A typical living room for the wealthy from around 100 years ago

ANNA MARÍA Design

The influence of the Icelandic nature

Anna María Sveinbjörnsdóttir is an Icelandic jeweller and designer who runs her own jewellery store, Anna María Design, on one of the main shopping streets in the city, Skólavörðustígur 3, in the heart of Reykjavík. Anna María studied both in Iceland and Denmark and has run her own company for more than three decades.

Anna María's design is pure, timeless and modern at the same time. She stresses exceptional attention to detail and craftsmanship and has eye for the smallest detail.

The jewellery is both for women and men and encompass silver, gold, white gold, Icelandic stones as well as precious stones like diamonds. In the store, you can find one of the biggest selections of jewellery with Icelandic stones in the country like Agate, Mose-agate, Jasper, Basalt and Lava.

When it comes to emphasis and style, Anna María mentions free and organic forms based on the Icelandic nature. Iceland is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and its waves inspire the jeweller and much of her jewellery where you can see the forms of the waves on rings, necklaces, bracelets or ear-rings.

Filigree represents a delicate form of jewellery metalwork usually made in silver and is well known regarding the traditional Icelandic women's costume. In some of Anna María's designs you can find this extraordinary delicate work, which reminds one of the Icelandic heritage. -SJ



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A TASTE OF THAI

Krua Thai serves an enticing cuisine in the heart of the capital city

Reykjavík's culinary charm is quite impressive for a small city, with a growing number of choices to suit all tastes. While there are traditional Icelandic restaurants serving fresh fish and tender lamb dishes, there are also fantastic restaurants specialising in food that you may not expect to see in Iceland. For instance, Krua Thai features classic and inventive Thai food in Reykjavík.

Impressive Menu

Quality ingredients, friendly service and a comfortable environment make Krua Thai a favourite among locals and travellers. The menus feature many of the staples you expect to see such as savoury spring rolls, tasty rice and noodle dishes, and glorious plates of Pad Thai. Main courses include delicious options like Pad Grapow, which is a fried dish with chilli and basil leaf in oyster sauce, served with rice and either chicken, pork, beef or lamb. There are also soups and salads on the menu. There is truly something for everyone.

Vegetarian-friendly dining

Non-meat eaters will feel more than welcome as Krua Thai has a large vegetarian section that is big on flavour. For instance, guests can enjoy vegetable noodle and rice dishes, as well as fried vegetables with tofu in oyster sauce, and a spicy vya salad served with rice.

Central location

Krua Thai at Skólavörðustíg 21a, is conveniently located in the heart of city centre, and is a delightful location for a meal. It has a cosy atmosphere and friendly staff who are eager to ensure you have an ideal dining experience. It's the perfect place for a meal after some time exploring museums, shops, and cafes in the trendiest and liveliest part of Reykjavík. If you want to spend the evening in at your hotel or guesthouse, you can order food to take away, and with delivery. Delivery is available daily until 21:00. -JG



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 www.kruathai.is



The one and only GRAFARVOGUR

If Grafarvogur, a neighbourhood in Reykjavík, were an independent town, it would be the fourth largest in the country. More than 20,000 people live in the area, in a mixed settlement of single-family, terraced, and apartment buildings.

Development began in the 1990s and is still ongoing. Now, there is even a Vínbúð (the state liquor store). Residents pointed out a few years ago that there was no such store in the city's largest neighbourhood. At the same time, Kópasker, one of Iceland's smallest towns in North Iceland, had one!

Grafarvogur can be broken down into eight smaller districts; Hamrar, Foldir, Hús, Rimar, Borgir, Vík, Engi, Spöng, Staðir, Höfðar, Bryggjuhverfi, Geirsnef, Gufunes and Geldinganes. The last one is the only one still uninhabited, but there are plans for future construction there. The view over Reykjavík and Seltjarnarnes is breathtaking from there. Mount Esja gives Geldinganes, and the whole neighbourhood, good shelter from the cold northern winds.

The Grafarvogur neighbourhood is named after a cove of the same name, which is, itself, named after the now deserted farm, Gröf. It used to stand at the edge of the gorge where Grafarlækur flows into the sea.



Photographs & text: Páll Stefánsson

Looking across Grafarvogur Cove to the Grafarvogur neighbourhood and the Grafarvogur church. It's the neighbourhood's only church and stands by the cove. Mount Esja and Múskarshnjúkar (on the right) can be seen in the background.



The Bryggjuhverfi district stands south of Grafarvogur; you can see Sundahöfn, Reykjavík's large shipping port, across the cove.



Hallsteinsgarður Park in Grafarvogur. It's on a hill east of Gufunes. It has 16 aluminium sculptures by artist Hallstein Sigurðsson, made from 1989 to 2012, and is part of the Reykjavík Art Museum.



Korpúlfsstaðir was originally a dairy farm built by Thor Jensen around 1925. The City of Reykjavík bought the land in 1942, and it is now an art centre, restaurant and facilities for golfers, while Korpúlfsstaðarvöllur Golf Course is on the old farm fields.

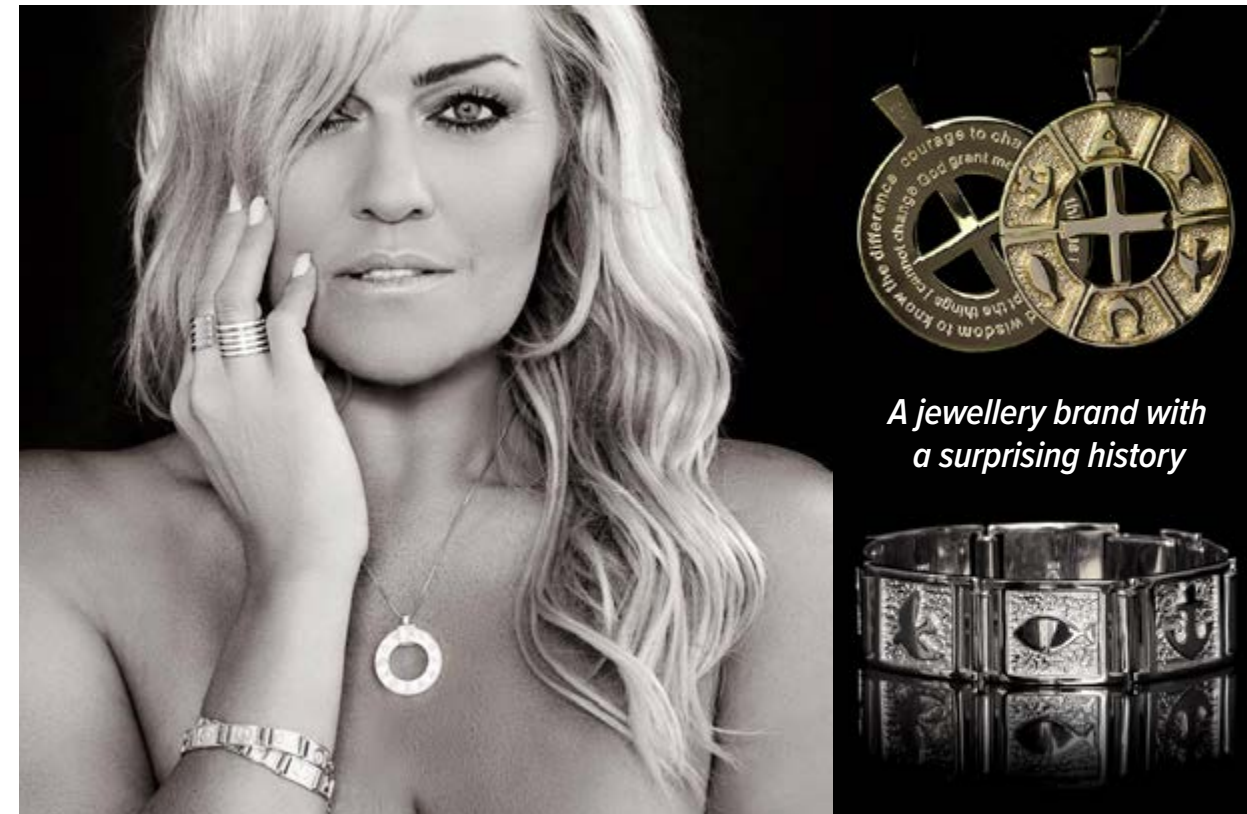


A large outdoor recreational area and an amusement park are in the neighbourhood.



THE PIER DISTRICT IN GRAFARVOGUR

At the junction of Elliðavogur and Grafarvogur is the pier district, Bryggjuhverfið, in Reykjavík. A different neighborhood, where there is neither a shop nor a school, despite the fact that well over a thousand people live in around 800 apartments in this beautiful and unique neighborhood. The neighborhood is still being developed and built, because in 2025 the number of apartments in the neighborhood will almost double. It was more than 30 years ago that the company Björgun drafted the construction of the neighborhood on the company's lot based on a foreign model. It was the architect Björn Ólafsson, who has worked in the city of Paris for decades, who was hired in 1992 to develop an idea and design a neighborhood where the proximity to the sea would be used for outdoor activities and recreation. Icelandic Times / Land & Saga, took a little trip and walked around the neighbourhood on the second day of the new year. It was beautiful, and snowy, as indeed in the entire capital. But few people were out and about as the weather was perhaps more suited to staying inside reading a good book and enjoying the view out to the canals, than walking around the neighborhood in the wet, heavy snow.



Vera Design A PIECE OF ICELANDIC SAGA

Vera Design's jewellery is sold in 24 stores in Iceland and one in the Faroe Islands. The design is classy, based on traditional symbols and has roots in Icelandic history.

Íris Björk Jónsdóttir is the woman behind Vera Design. Her road towards becoming a jewellery designer is not a traditional one. She began designing at a young age, building houses out of rocks in her parents' garden. When she was 25, she bought her first apartment and decided to gut it and design it from scratch. But when she was 30 years old, she was gifted a beautiful bracelet. This bracelet, unbeknownst to her, would point her in a direction that would lead her to become a jewellery designer a few years later.

This sounds dramatic, but the story is not. "At the time, I had no idea who the designer was. It wasn't until a few

years A Piece of Icelandic Saga later I found out it was the father-in-law of my blood sister, Kristín Ósk. And what's more, she designed it with him!" The designer, Guðbjartur Þorleifsson, was born in 1931 and raised in Reykjavík. He started studying to become a goldsmith at 16 years old and later became a painter and sculptor. In 2012, Íris bought Guðbjartur's jewellery designs.

"We started working together at that time, and he taught me everything I know about jewellery making", she says. Guðbjartur sadly passed away a few years ago. "I try to keep his spirit alive in everything I do, and nearly all of my designs have some story behind them. After I started Vera Design, the first item I made was a necklace with the serenity prayer, based on the Infinity bracelet I had been gifted", Íris says. "I was sitting in my kitchen wondering how I could

Vera Design finish the design when Nadía, one of my twin daughters, comes to me and asks, 'Why don't you add a cross in the middle? That way, it is all connected'. And she was right; the design was complete when I added the cross."

Íris works with a team of goldsmiths who used to work with Guðbjartur as well. She says she's slowly expanding the store with a new partner and they will be marketing the designs more abroad as well as at home. "My jewellery is sold in 24 stores in Iceland, and one in the Faroe Islands. Then I have the online store veradesign.is, which has grown a lot in the past year.

"Design has always been easy for me, and it is always fun. It doesn't matter if I'm designing jewellery, whole houses or kitchens. It is always easy because I love what I do", Íris says cheerfully. "However, if it weren't for Guðbjartur and his work, I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing today."

- HDB



Vera Design
veradesign.is
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LANDSVIRKJUN

IS CRUCIAL IN ICELAND'S ENERGY TRANSITION

Landsvirkjun will provide a significant role in the energy transition in Iceland and already reduces its carbon emissions

Landsvirkjun believes that energy issues are environmental issues and sees renewable energy as the way forward, with fossil fuels becoming a thing of the past. The energy transition is necessary if we are to counteract global climate change. Landsvirkjun is leading by example, and its status in environmental issues is excellent, as the company only generates energy from renewable sources and has one of the lowest carbon footprints in the world. The EU's benchmark for electricity as climate change mitigation is 100 grammes of carbon dioxide emissions per kilowatt-hour, and Landsvirkjun's operations only emit 3.6 grammes per kilowatt-hour.

Achieve carbon neutrality by 2025

Landsvirkjun's goal is to become carbon neutral by 2025, and the company is already well on its way to achieving that goal. As such, the carbon footprint from the company's operations has been reduced by 61% since 2008. Landsvirkjun's most significant challenge

is reducing emissions from geothermal power by 60%, which the company plans to achieve in three years. Indeed, these emissions are equal to 2.5% of Iceland's obligations on emissions reduction under the Paris Agreement.

Green hydrogen and methanol for energy transition

The company is working on two projects for electricity fuel: a green hydrogen project and a methanol project intended to support the energy transition in transport. These projects are in a developmental phase. The first project, which aims to develop green hydrogen production, will be used to adapt the energy transition in heavy goods transportation. The project will advance the possibility of reaching Iceland's targets in climate issues, at least regarding land transport. Hydrogen can replace fossil fuels as a completely carbon-free fuel, reducing emissions considerably, as one large commercial vehicle's emissions equal dozens of private cars emissions.

Meanwhile, the second project explores the possibility of producing methanol, a fuel considered suitable for the maritime energy transition. Methanol, which is a product made from hydrogen and carbon dioxide, can be effective and is growing in popularity. Engines

running on methanol are already in use, and international shipping liners have commissioned new vessels running on methanol. Several Icelandic companies have shown interest in the methanol option, seeing it as a practical first step in their energy transition.

Exporting Icelandic energy expertise

Landsvirkjun is not just committed to energy transition at home in Iceland; it supports the international energy transition via its subsidiary, Landsvirkjun Power, for international projects. Indeed, Landsvirkjun Power exports the knowledge gathered in Iceland regarding renewable energy sources. Landsvirkjun Power provides consultation regarding the preparation, construction, and operations of renewable energy power stations and is involved in their development. The latest project is a 10 MW hydropower station in the country of Georgia. The subsidiary is currently exploring projects in Greenland and Canada to support the energy transition in the Arctic region.



www.landsvirkjun.com





FINDING INSPIRATION IN ICELANDIC NATURE

Reykjavík-born artist Elínborg Jóhannesdóttir Ostermann calls Vienna home but makes frequent trips back to Iceland for inspiration for her work. Gathering Icelandic motifs across the east and west of Iceland, Elínborg finds the landscape of Iceland fascinating, with unique light and gripping surfaces becoming popular subjects in her work.

The inspiration for Elínborg's watercolours comes from nature in Iceland. "At the moment, I'm working on motifs from the Westfjords, where my mother grew up," says Elínborg. "I'm doing my second trip to the Westfjords this summer; I've had a long-time dream of travelling to Iceland and painting motifs onsite. I will do that this summer



Elínborg Jóhannesdóttir Ostermann

and will also explore the Eastfjords." In addition to nature motifs, Elínborg creates abstract works of art inspired by Iceland's colour, shapes, and light.

Elínborg will hold her fourth exhibition in Iceland in April at Gallerí Fold from 22nd April—7th May. "Over the past few years, I've been into painting abstract pieces related to nature, and since my last time in Iceland, the work has been abstract," says Elínborg. She has previously held exhibitions at Gallerí Fold in 2015, 2017 and 2020, and she's excited to return to show her work in April. Situated close to Hlemmur, Gallerí Fold has been the leading art house in Reykjavík for more than 30 years, displaying works of art from an impressive array of Icelandic artists.



Iceland-Austria connection

Elínborg has been involved in the local art scene in Vienna, opening a small gallery in the city last year with two other artists. She was also invited to show her work at the reopening of the Icelandic embassy in Vienna last year, attended by Iceland's foreign minister, Þórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir. The reopening featured work from several Icelandic artists both contemporary and old masters. "There is great momentum between Vienna and Iceland," says Elínborg. "The connection is very strong." Many Icelanders have come to Austria to study, many to study art, which highlights Iceland's cultural and artistic life.

Elínborg was born in Reykjavík in 1954. She attended seminars at the Reykjavík School of Visual Arts from 1964-1966. She moved to Vienna in 1974, where she was introduced to watercolours and attended workshops and master classes with notable artists, including Joseph Zbukvic, Chien Chung-Wei, Bernhard Vogel and Gerhard Almbauer. She is also represented by an online gallery in Iceland, [www.apolloart.is](https://apolloart.is).

<https://apolloart.is/collections/elinborg-johannesdottir-ostermann>





Landlæknishúsið, built in 1836 and a statue of Friðrik Friðriksson standing in front of Bernhöftstorfa.



Looking from Bernhöftstorfan, down Bankastræti and towards Lækjartorg.

THIS BEAUTIFUL ROW OF HOUSES

The row of houses that stands on the slope at Lækjargata, above Kvosin, is now called Bernhöftstorfa. The row of houses, from the Government Council, then the Bernhöftstorfan and then the building of Menntaskólinn í Reykjavík, form the oldest complete row of houses in the capital. It was almost 70 years ago that the architect Helge Finsen pointed out that the slope contained almost the only intact street scene from the past, and was therefore well worth preserving, but some of the houses on the turf were not in good conditions at that time. In 1972, the Turf Association was founded to promote the preservation and restoration of the houses. An assessment of the condition of the buildings was made in 1977, that year there was, among other things, a fire on the turf. In 1979, the row of houses was then preserved and the Turf Association entered into a lease agreement with the Minister of Finance and Education regarding the association's takeover of the turf in return for its restoration. That work was fully completed in 1989. The two oldest houses on Bernhöftstorfan are from 1832, followed by one from 1836. Two buildings in the row are younger, both built in 1905.



On the other side of Bankastræti you can see the House of the government counsel, the office of our Prime Minister.



The name of Bernhöftstorfan comes from a bakery named Bernhöftsbakari that was located at Bankastræti 2 for 97 years. Located now in the same house is the bakery/restaurant Bakabaka.



In Gimli, at front of the photograph, are the offices for the Reykjavík Art Festival are located.



VÍFIL'S LAND

Looking over to Reykjavík, Hallgrímskirkja can be spotted on the left, the mountain Keilir on Reykjanes in the middle of the picture. In front of the mountain, the contours of Landakot Hospital and Landakot Church can be seen.

In 874, Vífill and Karli, slaves of the first settler Ingólfur Arnarson, found his high sea pillars, in a bay under Arnarhóll in Reykjavík. Ingólfur settled there, together with his wife Hallgerður Fróðadóttir. The slave Karli ran away with a maid and they were later found at Reykir in Ölfus. Vífill was freed and built a farm at Vífilstaðir, south of Reykjavík.



Vífilstaðir, built in 1910, where there is now an elderly service



Vífilstaðavatn is very close to the hospital, a good 2.6 km walking-running trail surrounds the lake

In 1910, a hospital for tuberculosis patients was built on the land, the first in the country, designed by Rögnvaldur Ólafsson. Vífilstaðir was far from the inhabited area of Reykjavík then. A geriatric hospital is now being operated in Vífilstaðir, which is now not far from the center of the capital area, a short distance from IKEA, the center of Garðabær and the outdoor areas at Vífilstaðavatn and Heiðmörk.



The view from Vífilstaðir, the new neighborhood in Garðabær, Urriðaholt can be seen between the trees



There is a lot of birdlife at Vífilstaðavatn, and in the groves of trees near the hospital

HAFNARFJÖRÐUR & HANSEATIC MERCHANTS



The sailing into Hafnarfjörður

Hafnarfjörður was the main port of the German Hanseatic merchants in Iceland. It was also the country's largest import and export port from 1480 and throughout the 16th century. In 1602 Christian IV, the Danish king issued a decree on monopoly trade, with which everyone other than citizens of the Danish state was forbidden to trade in Iceland.

One of the greatest periods of decline in Icelandic history began at that time, but the monopoly trade lasted until 1787. The king also issued the decree in 1608 that all the buildings of the Hanseatic merchants in Hafnarfjörður were to be demolished, including the first Lutheran church in Iceland, a wooden church with a copper roof.

The church was established and constructed by Hanseatic merchants in Hafnarfjörður and Straumsvík and captains who spent time on Icelandic voyages.

Not much reminds us of the Hanseatic period in Hafnarfjörður today, except for a monument to the first Lutheran church built there by the harbour in 1533. The work is by the German artist Lupus; the gate commemorates the relations between Icelanders and Germans and points the way into the future. The presidents of the two countries unveiled the monument almost twenty years ago.



A monument to the first Lutheran church in Iceland, built by the Hanseatic merchants in 1533 in Hafnarfjörður. Flensborg School can be seen to the left of the 6 metres high artwork.



Hafnarfjörður port in the mild weather today.



The new headquarters of the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute at Hafnarfjörður harbour.

HOT WATER



Borehole by Kringlumýrarbraut, the Japanese Embassy and Valhöll, the Independence Party's headquarters, in the background.



There is a borehole at the west end of the Hilton hotel by Suðurlandsbraut.



At the entrance of the American Embassy at Engjateigur is hot water well.



Solar energy and geothermal energy in the centre of Reykjavik.

When the price of fossil fuels is high and the pollution that such combustion emits into the atmosphere is a serious problem, it is very beneficial to have district heating as 89.6% of all housing in Iceland uses.

Iceland's first real district heating was installed in Laugaskóli, the school in Reykjadalur, Suður-Þingeyjarsýsla. It was first used in 1924. The first district heating in Reykjavík was in Austurbæjarskóli. A 3 km pipeline was laid from Laugardalur to heat the school in 1930.

Today Veitur operates thirteen district heating utilities, one in the entire capital area, five in the West, and seven in the South. The company serves up to 70% of the population, a truly giant company in its field in the world. The company distributes 89.9 million cubic metres of hot water per year. The length of the district heating pipes is 3,066 km or 1,905 miles, from 78 utilized boreholes. The average annual consumption of Icelandic homes is 4.5 tonnes of hot water per square metre of housing.



SUSTAINABLE ARTISAN KNIFEMAKING IN ICELAND

One of a kind knives that will last you a lifetime

When people think about knifemaking, nature and waterfalls are probably the last things that come to mind. However, that is precisely what you find when you visit Páll Kristjánsson's and Soffía Sigurðardóttir's world-renowned sustainable knife atelier. Situated in the idyllic Álafosskvós in Mosfellsbær, only a 15-minute drive from downtown Reykjavík, the atelier offers some of the best knives you will ever own.

Páll Kristjánsson, or Palli as he likes to be called, has been making knives for over 30 years. His craftsmanship is renowned worldwide, but his knives are unique because he only uses sustainable materials. "Soffía and I use materials that otherwise would be thrown away and

give them a new life", Palli says. "Some of the materials we use are birch, rowan, horses' hooves, reindeer antlers, sheep horns and whale teeth." As a result, every knife is one of a kind and made with Japanese Damascus steel or stainless steel from Denmark, Germany and Sweden.

Soffía Sigurðardóttir's artisan kitchen knives are made with only the best blades, which have to be handled with care. She is also the only kitchen-knifemaker in Iceland. "I get inspiration from nature and my surroundings when I'm creating the knives. One colour combination of rust-red and green, I got from a ship in the shipyard in the Old Harbour in Reykjavík", Soffía says.

"Sustainability and the environment are very important to us. No animals are hunted for us. The ram horns and horse hooves come from slaughtered animals, and the ivory comes from beached

whales. If we buy wood, we only buy from specially certified companies in the USA, which can reliably prove that the trees were legally chopped down." Additionally, they get wood from old trees in Iceland that need to be cut down.

It's not only Palli and Soffía who sell their art in the atelier. Palli's brother Bjarni is also an artist. His primary medium is ebony and ivory, from which he carves out small animals and other figures. Just like Palli and Soffía, his materials are sustainably sourced.

Visiting the atelier gives a particular sensation of calmness. It is evident the work done there is done with care. The smell of the different woods and leather of the sheaths, combined with the calm sounds of birds chirping and the waterfall, which is literally in their backyard, makes for an exceptional experience. One which is highly recommended. -HDB

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PHOTO AND TEXT: *Páll Stefánsson*

Alþingishúsið Austurvöllur, in December 2022, next to the Cathedral which was built in 1796, 85 years before the Alþingishúsið

THE HOUSE OF THE NATION, ALÞINGISHÚSIÐ

Alþingishúsið at Austurvöllur

was built between 1880 and 1881. Since then, two annexes have been built next to the original building, Kringlan in 1908, and Skálinn in 2002. It was at Alþingi 1867 that it was approved

to build an Icelandic stone parliament building in Reykjavík to commemorate thousand years of Iceland's settlement in 1874. However, it was not until 1879 at Alþingi that a budget was approved to build a house that would not only be a building for Alþingi, but also a house for the country's museums and higher educational institutions. Ferdinand Meldahl, president of the University of the Arts in Copenhagen and master builder was commissioned to draw up designs for the house. The design was to be the subject of a great controversy for not to be built at Arnarhóll, because Governor Hilmar Finsen used fields there, but in the baker's slope, where Bankastræti 7 is now. In the fall of 1879 they start digging the foundation in Bankastræti but when the master carpenter, F. Bald arrives in the country



Alþingishúsið Austurvöllur, in December 2022, next to the Cathedral which was built in 1796, 85 years before the Alþingishúsið



Old and new times, the corridor between Alþingishúsið and Skálinn . Kringlan can be seen on the right, built in 1908



Vér mótmælum allir, painting by Gunnlaugur Blöndal, from the National Assembly in 1851. Jón Sigurðsson president standing in gray on the right. The painting hangs in the lobby of Alþingishúsið, but the event was a great boost to Iceland's struggle for independence.



The hall, the Icelandic Parliament has 63 members of parliament



Here is probably one of the most important halls of the Alþingishúsið, next to the Parliament hall

to build the house, with a fine entourage of stonemasons from Borgundarhólmur, he refuses to build the building there in the steep slope so again disputes over the location start. Finally Halldór Kr. Friðrikson's, member of parliament and teacher, cabbage patch was bought for a great prize, located west of the Cathedral. The stones that make up the house are taken from Þingholt where you can now find Óðinsgata.

Alþingishúsið was inaugurated during the assembly ceremony on July 1, 1881, and the first governor from 1873 to 1882, Hilmar Finsen (1824-1886), gave an inauguration speech after Mass in the Cathedral. After Hilmar retired as head of state a year later, he became mayor of Iceland's capital, Copenhagen, until his death. In the speech he says; " ...and there it now stands the most

beautiful and safest house that has ever been built in Iceland, to the pride of the country and it's people... and that the Icelandic Parliament in cooperation with the administration had the will and ability to carry out such a beautiful and magnificent work." But Alþingishúsið is somewhat reminiscent, although smaller in size, of the Medici-Riccardi palace in Florence, built in 1444, with its roughly hewn stone, arched window arrangements and projecting roof edge. After all, nothing was spared, the walls of Alþingishúsið are 80 cm thick at the bottom, and the cavity in between is filled with lime, sand and cement. At the top, they are about half as thin. After a few days, this remarkable house has served the nation well, for 132 years, with three Governors, and 33 Prime Ministers during this time.



Alþingishúsið on the far left, seen from Tjörnin in the December light



Former members of Parliament can be seen decorating the halls



One of The Parliaments many meeting rooms



Dining room for employees and members of the Parliament in the new extension, Skálinn built in 2002

KJALARNES & KOLLAFJÖRÐUR

Looking over to Reykjavík, Hallgrímskirkja can be spotted on the left, the mountain Keilir on Reykjanes in the middle of the picture. In front of the mountain, the contours of Landakot Hospital and Landakot Church can be seen.

Under the roots of Esja, there is a scale-cut promontory, Kjalarnes, with about 1,400 inhabitants. This beautiful promontory, north of Kollafjörður and south of Hvalfjörður, belongs to the capital, Reykjavík. Although Mosfellsbær with its dense population lies in between. In Kjalarnes, in the settlement of Ingólfur Arnarson, the first settler, the first regional parliament in Iceland, Kjalarnesþing, was founded, the precursor to Alþingi in Þingvellir. The assembly was then moved to Elliðaavatn, but was still called Kjalarnesþing. From Kjalarnes there is an extremely beautiful view, south to the capital at Seltjarnarnes, and all the way to Reykjanes over the Kollafjörður in Faxaflói. The village in Kjarnes is called Grundarhverfi, it's about a 25-minute drive from there to the center of Reykjavík.



Horses under the roots of Esja in -12 degrees



More than 700 people live in Grundarhverfi in Kjalarnes, close to the sea, nature and the capital. But Kjalarnes is the northernmost part of the capital.



Klébergsskóli, which will have been operating for a hundred years in a few years, Esja in the background



Brautarholtskirkja, the westernmost part of Kjarnes, Esja in the background. The church is a descendant of the first church in Iceland that the settler Örykur Hrappson built on Esjuberg just before 900. The current church was built in 1857 by Eyjólfur Þorvarðsson, from Bakki on Kjalarnes.

TRAVEL IN STYLE WITH HREYFILL TAXI SERVICE

Why not skip the rental car in Iceland and book a taxi instead? Hreyfill taxi offers a personal experience, whether it is to be picked up from Keflavík International Airport or if you want to explore the country. Hreyfill is the largest taxi service in Iceland, as well as one of the oldest, founded in 1943.

Hreyfill is an excellent option if you want to travel to places off the beaten track or even if you just want a more intimate Golden Circle Tour. Longer or shorter trips are also available, and it is possible to book at short notice. The call centre is open 24/7, so there is always someone who can help.

One of the must-go places to visit in Iceland is the Blue Lagoon, near Grindavík. The lagoon is a great place to relax and eat good food, and having a driver and car from Hreyfill takes the whole experience to the next level. There is no need to plan your trip according to a company's coach schedule.

No trip is too short or too long. If you just need a ride to the next street over, Hreyfill is



happy to help. It's possible to order a taxi by phone, via email, through their app or just hail one from one of the many taxi ranks in the city centre. -HDB



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THE ICELANDIC PHALLOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Visit one of the most unique museums on the planet

The Icelandic Phallogological Museum is one of the most unique museums in the world and one of the most-visited in Reykjavík. The museum contains a collection of more than 300 penises belonging to every species of mammal found in Iceland and scores of foreign species. Visitors to the museum will see specimens belonging to whales, a rogue polar bear, seals and walruses, and specimens originating from many different kinds of land mammals. "The collection began in 1974 and it's been constantly growing," said Þórður O. Þórðarson, the manager of the museum. "We have well over 300 penis specimens and 300 penis themed art and cultural pieces."

History of the museum

The founder, Sigurður Hjartarson, a historian and teacher, began this collection in 1974 when colleagues who worked at the nearby whaling station in West Iceland began giving him whale penises to tease him. The idea of collecting specimens from more mammalian species was born. Collecting the organs progressed and by 1980, he had collected 13 specimens, four from whales and nine from land mammals. In 1990 there were 34 specimens and, when the museum opened in Reykjavík in August 1997, the specimens totalled 62. In the Spring of 2004, the museum moved to the small fishing village of Húsavík, the whale watching capital of Europe.

It was moved back to Reykjavík in 2011 and opened under the direction of a new curator, Siguður's son.

New and exciting location

"The first location in Reykjavík was great, but we had to relocate because the collection grew and the number of visitors grew as well," said Þórður. "We are now located at Hafnartorg, which is a great area of Reykjavík near Harpa." The museum has undergone extensive changes to improve the visitor experience. There is more space for guests to roam and view the specimens and the technology has been enhanced, with touch screens adding a modernized feel. Another exciting addition has been a phallus-themed bistro where locals and tourists can enjoy food, coffee and beers on tap from local breweries.

A visit to the Icelandic Phallogological Museum is a unique, must-see experience when visiting Reykjavík. The museum, which is open every day from 10:00 – 19:00, is a great way to spend a couple of hours in the capital, and it will be a conversation piece for years to come! - JG

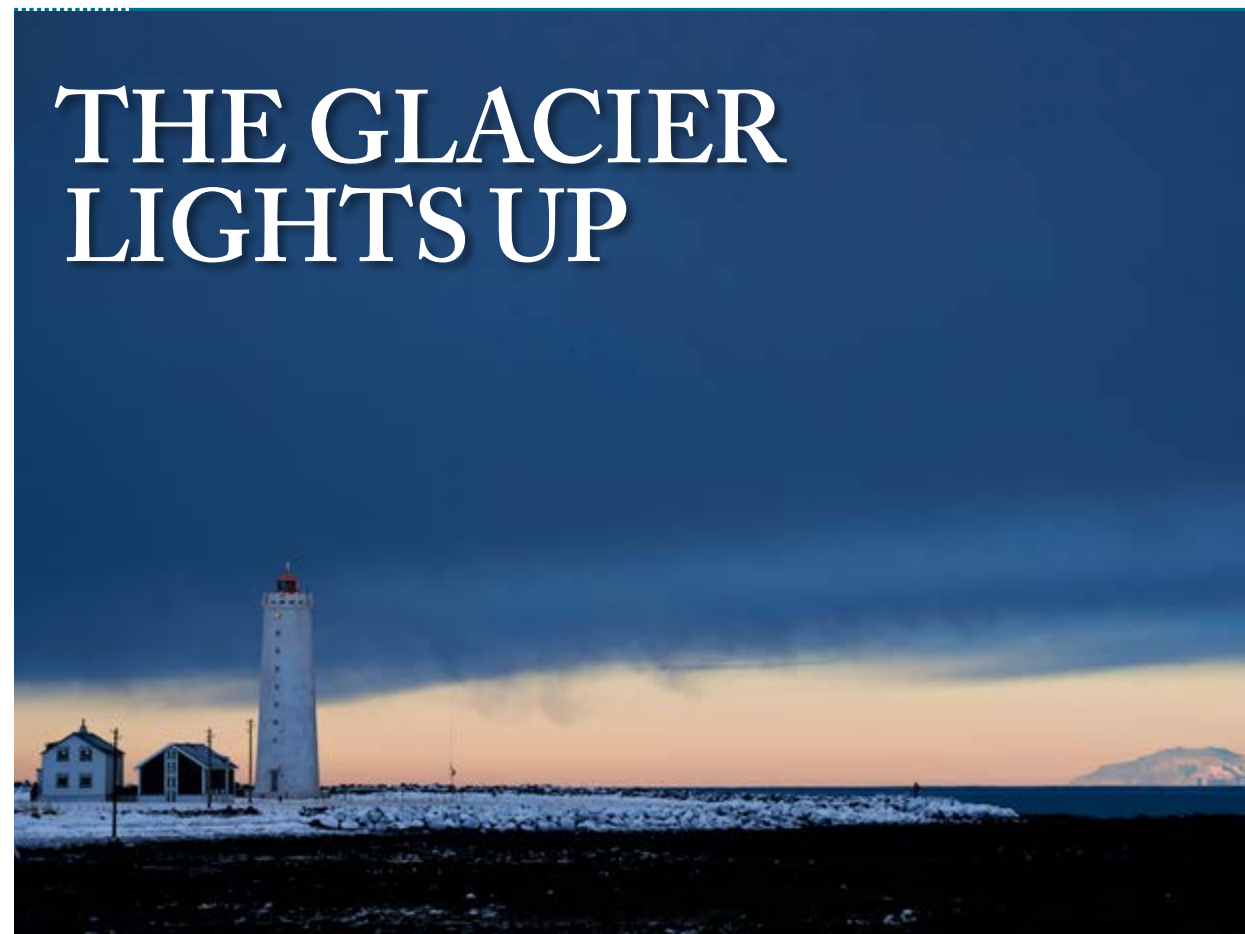


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PHOTO AND TEXT: Páll Stefánsson

THE GLACIER LIGHTS UP



Gróttuviti built in 1947 and Snæfellsjökull 109 km away

Incredibly beautiful, they have brought Snæfellsjökull closer to Reykjavík, I thought as I crossed Öskjuhlíð on my way to the center of Reykjavík. The course was changed, and the course was set to the west of Gróttá in Seltjarnarnes, where it is best to capture the glacier from the capital. "Incredibly beautiful" said a Danish traveler who stood by his tripod and photographed the mood. "How far is it in a straight line to Snæfellsjökull from here" he then asked. "I have no idea." But then with the help of HERE maps, we saw that we were 109 km / 66 mi away from this 1446 m / 4744 ft high volcano in the west of Snæfellsnes, in the northwest across Faxaflói. The western part of Snæfellsnes is a national park, Snæfellsjökull which is almost 200 square kilometers in size. Snæfellsjökull last erupted in 272, the year Constantine I the Great, Emperor of the Roman Empire was born. He was the first Christian Emperor. Constantine moved the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to Constantinople, now Istanbul, which he of course named after himself.



The Snæfellsjökull lights up in the January sun from Gróttá



Akranes, seen from Seltjarnarnes across Faxaflói. Snæfellsnes to the left in the distance, the mountains rising up from Mýrar to the right



The dynamic and diverse Town of REYKJANESBÆR

Reykjanesbær, on the Southern Peninsula, Suðurnes, was founded when towns of Keflavík and Njarðvík merged, along with the village of Hafnir, back in 1994. Of these, Keflavík is known to Icelanders as ‘Beatles-Town’, being Iceland’s answer to Liverpool. The reason for that is Iceland’s first ‘Beatles-band’, Hljómar (Chords) was formed in Keflavík back in 1963. The larger-than-life band members took Iceland by storm. Today, Hall of Hljómar bears their name, housing Iceland’s Museum of Rock ‘n Roll as well—a must visit for lovers of music. Njarðvík or Bay of Njörðr is adjacent to Keflavík, consisting of outer and inner Njarðvík. In its old town is a stone church

built in 1886. Of the three towns that make up the municipality, Keflavík is the largest, while Hafnir is the smallest.

Keflavík and Njarðvík had gradually grown together over the course of the latter half of the 20th century, until all that separated them was a single street. The northern side of the street belonged to Keflavík and the southern side to Njarðvík. The town, in recent years, has been one of Iceland’s fastest growing municipalities with twenty thousand inhabitants. Ten kilometres away, Hafnir takes its name from two now deserted farms, and was formerly a thriving fishing community up to the 20th century, but today holds only approximately 100 inhabitants.

Next to Iceland’s International Airport

Iceland’s International Airport is south of Reykjanesbær town. Some five million people will pass through it in 2022, down from seven million 2019. As the covid crisis has passed, predictions for coming years are for up to eight million travellers. Reykjanesbær town serves as a gateway into Iceland, so in recent years excellent hotels and restaurants have begun operations.

The US arrived in Iceland in July, 1941 during World War II. They built Keflavík Airport but left after the war, returning at the beginning of the Cold War, as Iceland had joined NATO. Keflavík became a United States Naval Base. The Americans

left in 2006, the naval base was closed. The soldiers returned home with their families and staff. They had lived in their own fenced-off town of 5,700 inhabitants. Today, the former ‘American’ town is a thriving district in Reykjanesbær, named Ásbrú (God’s Bridge) with Keilir University, educational institutions and businesses on the site.

Museums of Reykjanesbær

Duus Museum is the Art and Cultural Centre of the town. It houses the exhibition halls for the local museums, concert halls and halls for mixed cultural activities and is located near the marina at Gróf, overlooking Keflavík bay. On the cliffs surrounding the Duus Marina is a foot path where one might catch a glimpse of whales swimming nearby. The oldest of the Duus Houses is the Harbour house, built 1877. Danish merchant Hans Peter Duus [1795-1868] had the house built as a warehouse for Duus company.

There is also the unique Skessa Hellir (Giantess Cave). The design and creation of

the cave and the Giantess were in the hands of the North Storm Art Group., A skessa—a Giantess or Troll woman—is said to have come to the rescue of fishermen during a powerful storm.

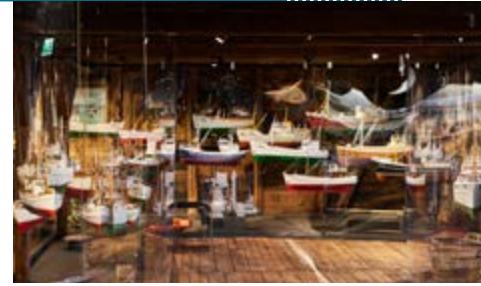
Njarðvík is the home of Víkingaheimar – the Viking World Museum with its Viking ship, the Icelandic that, in the Millennium year 2000, sailed across the Atlantic to New York to commemorate the thousand-year anniversary of Leif Erikson’s discovery of America. The Icelandic Fire Brigade Museum, with its huge trucks from the time of Iceland’s Defence Force, may be of interest for truck enthusiasts.

At Hafnir village to the south, ruins dating prior to The Settlement are being excavated. The mysterious four-thousand-ton ghost ship Jamestown stranded at Hafnir in 1881 with no-one aboard. It was crossing the Atlantic bound for Liverpool with high quality lumber. The crew had abandoned the rudderless ship in heavy seas, and four months later it ran ashore at Hafnir.

Surrounded by unique nature

The Reykjanes Peninsula’s nature is marked by active volcanoes and lava fields. Reykjanesbær is surrounded by unique nature. There are numerous hot springs around the Kleifarvatn lake and the Krýsuvík geothermal area with the geothermal power-station at Svartsengi and the world-famous Blue Lagoon. At Gunnhver geyser, visitors can hear the vigorous noise, see the boiling water and feel the power and steam bursting from the ground. The geyser stands in the heart of Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark, where the North Atlantic Ridge rises from the ocean, with over one hundred different craters and lava fields, bird cliffs, high geothermal areas and black sand beaches. The Bridge between Continents spans the Álfagjá or Elves’ Ravine that marks the boundary of the Eurasian and American continental tectonic plates, enabling visitors to walk from one continent to the other.

The black sandy beaches inspired Clint Eastwood to recreate the battle of Iwo Jima in his movie Flag of our Fathers.



The photograph of the six soldiers who raised the flag on Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima is arguably the most famous in American history. In his movie, Eastwood follows the stories of the six flag raisers.

The lighthouses of Reykjanes are beautiful structures, the first built 1847 at Garðskagi to guide seafarers into Faxaflói Bay, and the Lighthouse of Reykjanes, built 1878.

Eldey (Fire Island) is a seventy-seven metre-high rock that protrudes out of sea. Eldey is basaltic hyaloclastites, and is 0.3 km² in area. One of the biggest gannet colonies of the world is found at Eldey. It is the innermost of a chain of skerries standing on a shallow ridge, which stretches 45 nautical miles offshore to the southwest. Another of those skerries was Geirfuglasker, where the last breeding colonies of the now extinct Great Auk was located. Geirfuglasker disappeared during submarine eruptions in 1830.

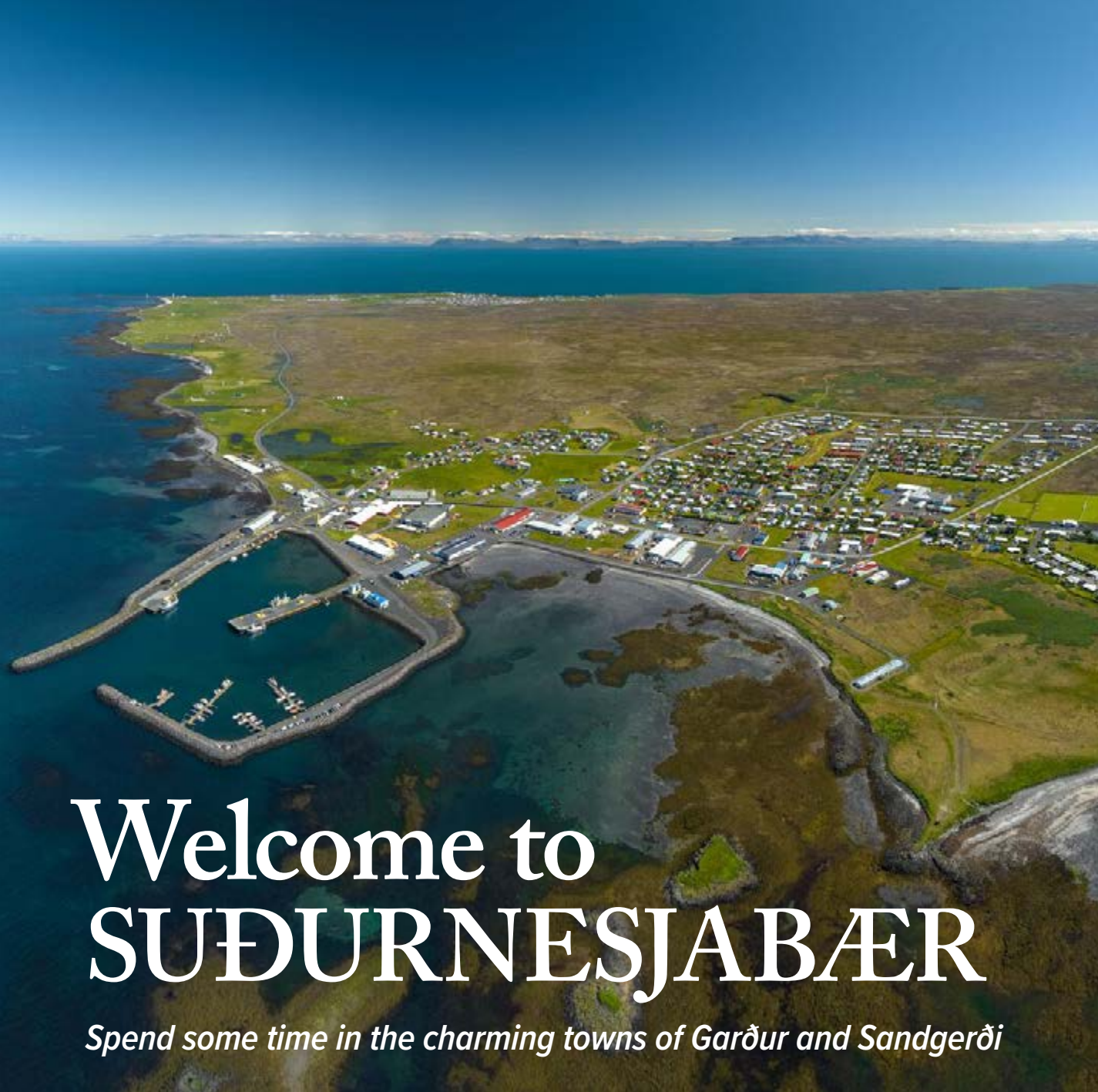
At Hvalsnes (Whale Point), there is a church dear to Icelanders, built with basaltic lava stones and consecrated on Christmas Day 1887. Hallgrímur Pétursson [1614–74], author of the Passion Hymns served at Whale Point. Iceland's main church, Hallgrímskirkja, in Reykjavík is named after Iceland's most beloved priest.

Volcanic Eruptions

Volcanic eruptions occurred in two periods on the Reykjanes Peninsula quite close to Reykjanesbær; from 2020 into 2021 and then in 2022 after nearly 800 years of inactivity. The eruptions were at Fagradalsfjall (Beautiful Mountain Valley). National Geographic's experts predicted that this "...may mark the start of decades of volcanic activity." The eruptions were small by Icelandic standards, leading the magazine to predict that these eruptions are unlikely to threaten the towns of the Reykjanes area.

By Hallur Hallsson





Welcome to SUÐURNESJABÆR

Spend some time in the charming towns of Garður and Sandgerði



Suðurnesjabær is one of the four municipalities on Reykjanes Peninsula and lies along the seashore with beautiful surroundings and sea views in the unique Reykjanes Geopark. Suðurnesjabær consists of the two towns of Garður and Sandgerði, which merged in 2018.

Garður is a quiet seaside town on the northwest tip of Reykjanes and a great place to spend some time. The town is known for a pair of lighthouses, where on sunny summer days, you can find locals and tourists picnicking, basking in the sun and enjoying the scenery. The older, more traditional red-striped lighthouse was built in 1897, while the newer square-designed one was built in 1944 in a more modern Nordic style. This is a popular destination for photographers and offers good conditions to see the Northern Lights in the wintertime.

The Folk Museum is another must-see in Garður. The museum houses items that were essential for the livelihood of Icelanders on both land and sea, including tools, fishing items, and maps. It offers a window into what life was like in past generations, reminding visitors that life in Iceland was not easy for its early settlers. The museum also has an extensive collection of 60 functional engines provided by local resident Guðni Ingimundarson.

Fishing boats can often be seen from shore—and whales, if you're lucky! There is rich birdlife in the region, ranging from



hordes of gulls, Arctic terns and gannets in the summer to ravens in the winter.

Meanwhile, Sandgerði offers an insight into one of Iceland's major fishing communities. Situated on the northern tip of the Reykjanes peninsula, Sandgerði has a lot to do and see in town and a good camping site. Outdoor enthusiasts love the birdwatching and golfing opportunities. There are nature exhibitions at the Suðurnes Science and Learning Centre and a historical gallery.

In the historical gallery, you can visit the magnificent exhibition 'Attraction of the Poles' featuring the work, life and death of the French medical doctor and polar scientist Jean-Baptiste Charcot. His

research ship, the Pourquoi-Pas, was lost along the coast of Iceland in 1936 but a model of the boat is part of the exhibition.

Suðurnesjabær, with its beautiful seashore and beaches, is an ideal area to base yourself from while staying along the Reykjanes peninsula.



KRAUMA

Geothermal Baths

Experience Iceland's geothermal energy in these soothing hot baths

Enjoy Iceland's sublime naturally-heated waters while bathing in geothermal baths in West Iceland. Krauma, the newly opened bathing facility, offers five relaxing natural baths, along with a cold tub, two soothing saunas and a relaxation room, where you can lounge by the fireplace while listening to calming music. This is the perfect way to experience Iceland's renowned waters in a more intimate setting than the more crowded Blue Lagoon.

Powerful hot spring

The water for the baths is heated by Deildartunguhver, which is considered Europe's most powerful hot spring. It provides 200 litres per second of hot water at 100°C (212°F). To achieve the perfect bathing temperature, Krauma mixes the hot water with cold water from Rauðsgil, which originates in what was the Ok glacier, Iceland's smallest glacier. Visitors can see Deildartunguhver next to the baths, with its water bubbling up and splashing against bright green moss and jagged rocks. Seeing where the heated water comes from adds to this unique experience. Be sure to keep your distance, though, to avoid being splashed if you get too close.

Important hot water source

Deildartunguhver is crucial to the comfort of the region. Most of the water used for central heating in the West Iceland towns of Akranes and Borgarnes is taken from Deildartunguhver. The hot water pipeline to Akranes is 64 kilometres long, which is the longest in Iceland. It's still about 78-80°C when it reaches the town.

West is best

Krauma is conveniently located in West Iceland, where there are numerous attractions. Starting from Reykjavík, you can make stops at the popular fishing town of Akranes and climb to the top of its lighthouse for spectacular views, before continuing to



Borgarnes to visit the Settlement Centre to get a taste of the famous Sagas. In Reykholt, one of Iceland's most notable historical sites, you can stop at the Icelandic Goat Centre before visiting Snorrastofa, dedicated to Snorri Sturluson, one of the most famous and important figures in Icelandic literature. Snorri penned the Edda, Egil's Saga, and Heimskringla before his death in 1241. There is so much to see and do in West Iceland and Krauma is perfectly positioned.

Visit Krauma

Geology enthusiasts and spa lovers alike will enjoy a visit to Krauma. You can experience nature from its core while bathing in these unique geothermal baths in beautiful West Iceland. Make sure you pay a visit to Krauma during your visit to Iceland. -JG



Krauma
 Deildartunguhver, 310 Borgarbyggð
www.krauma.is





ARNARVATNSHEIÐI

Looking over to Reykjavík, Hallgrímskirkja can be spotted on the left, the mountain Keilir on Reykjanes in the middle of the picture. In front of the mountain, the contours of Landakot Hospital and Landakot Church can be seen.

It is said, whether it is true or not, that there are three uncountable places in Iceland. The islands in Breiðafjörður, the hills in Vatnsdalur and the lakes in Arnarvatnsheiði. Icelandic Times / Land & Saga went up to this heathland, from Miðfjörður north in Vestur-Húnavatnssýsla in the summer of 2021. The road F578 runs over Arnarvatnsheiði between Miðfjörður and Hvítársíða in the eastern part of Borgarfjörður. The heath has abundant vegetation, great bird life and countless lakes, full of trout, and low-key beauty. Arnarvatnsheiði is one of Iceland's jewels, which few people visit, as it is only possible to get around the area for a short time of the year in well-equipped cars, or well-equipped on foot. Yes, there are a great many lakes, but the silence is even greater.



Arnarvatnsheiði – Sólarlag



THE WESTFJORDS HERITAGE MUSEUM

Open: June 1.- August 31.
 Daily from 10:00 - 17:00
 1. September - 15. September
 Daily from 11:00-15:00

THE BLACKSMITH ÞINGEYRI

Open: June 1. – Aug. 31.
 Wednesday - Sunday 10 -14.



THE HERITAGE MUSEUM ON GARÐSKAGI

Byggðasafnið á Garðskaga, is located in a museum area by Garðskagaviti Lighthouse in Suðurnesjabær, where there is a beautiful panoramic view in all directions.

Skagabraut 100, 250 Suðurnesjabær
 +354 425 3008
 byggdasafn@sudurnesjabær.is
 Open: May 1. – Sept. 30. 10am – 17 pm



THE EAST ICELAND HERITAGE MUSEUM

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The **SWIMMING POOL AT LAUGASKARÐ** is 50 meters long and 12 metres wide — it is renowned for its lovely setting as well as excellent facilities, including hot pots, whirlpool pot and a natural steam bath.

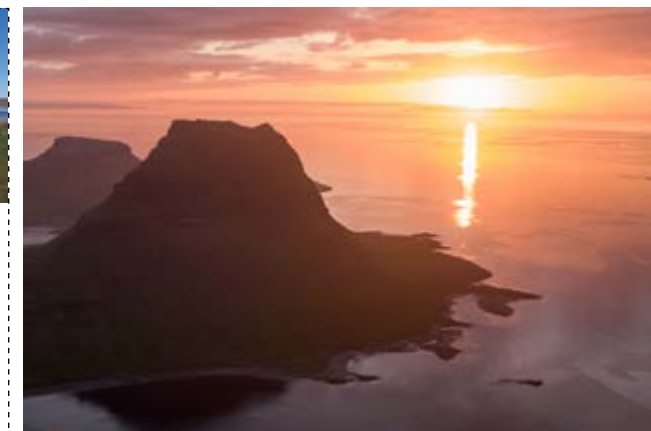
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ICELANDIC TIMES



www.icelandictimes.com



DO YOU WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THE FIRST SETTLERS IN ICELAND?

The settlement center is only a one hour drive from Reykjavík

Some 1100 years ago, Iceland was a place covered with impenetrable forests and dangerous bogs, and it took groups of bold men to cross the rough North Atlantic sea, to discover the remote island and determine to settle there in order to start a new life. They were the first to name rivers, mountains and places that are world famous today, and many farms are still able to trace their history back to the days of the Settlement. As the most important source of Iceland's history, the Sagas are a collection of exciting stories built around these first settlers. Understanding Iceland completely means paying tribute to their achievements, which made the country what it is today.

A Warehouse of Exhibitions

In 2006 an Icelandic couple, actor Kjartan Ragnarsson and news reporter Sigríður Margrét Guðmundsdóttir, decided to dedicate a project to the story of the Settlement. They found a charming old warehouse in Borgarnes in West Iceland and started building up two exhibitions on the brave pioneers who followed their curiosity into the unknown.

Provided with an audio guide available in 15 languages, visitors find themselves in an elaborate labyrinth that displays history in a

really exciting way. Step onto a moving boat and get the feeling of how it must have been to cross the ocean in an open boat! Listen to stories, while figures behind the glass silently watch over you. On the lower floor the exhibition of Saga hero and settler's son, Egill Skallagrímsson, takes you right into the story, with Egill's spirit at your steps.

Transformed through Art

Visual artists from Iceland and abroad contributed their work to both exhibitions, transforming it into a unique experience. Each audio tour takes 30 minutes, leaving the visitor with the deep desire to learn more. The Settlement Center's shop serves as a treasure chest of books on Saga literature, as well as Viking-themed handicrafts and woolen items created by local artists. Take your time to complete your visit with a dinner in the cosy restaurant that catches the atmosphere of the house perfectly and boasts a range of sophisticated Icelandic food at reasonable prices. -DT/ASF



The Settlement Center
Brákarbraut 13-15 • 310 Borgarnes
+354 437 1600
landnam@landnam.is
www.landnam.is



FROSTY WHITE HVÍTÁ RIVER

Hvítá is the tenth longest river in Iceland, and its source is at Eiríksjökull and Langjökull, in many rivers that then merge. There is some fishing in Hvítá, although more in its tributaries. Grímsá, Þverá and Kjarrá, which flow into Hvítá, have the best and most expensive salmon fishing in the country. The bridge over Hvítá, which stands on road 510 near Ferjubakki in Borgarfjörður, was designed by Árni Pálsson, an engineer at The Icelandic Road and Coastal Administration. The bridge, which is one-laned and 106 meters long, was chosen by the Icelandic Society of Engineers as one of the engineering achievements of the last century in Iceland. For fifty years, the bridge was the main national road between the south and southwest of the country before the Borgarfjörður bridge, the largest bridge in Iceland was inaugurated in 1979, south of Borgarnes.



The bridge over Hvítá by Ferjubakki, built in 1928 and cost 169 thousand.



Looking southwest along the icy Hvítá, to Borgarfjörður. Hafnarfjall to the right, Brekkufjall to the left.



THE VOLCANO ELDBORG

Rough Eldborg lava field, Eldborg rises from the lava in the distance.

Eldborg is a particularly shapely oval crater in the middle of the Eldborgarhraun lava field in Hnappadalur. It rises 60 meters over the beautifully overgrown lava around. Eldborg was formed in two eruptions, the latter about a thousand years ago. Eldborg belongs to the eruption system of Ljósufjall, a little north of Snæfellsnes. The Book of Settlement tells the story of a blind elder, Sel-Þór Grímsson, who first saw the volcanic eruption where the farm Hripi was, the farm which stood where the crater is now. Eldborg and the surrounding lava was protected as a natural phenomenon in 1974. From Snorrastaðir in Hnappadalur, there is a 3 km long hiking trail up to Eldborg. When you reach the crater, there is a stunning view west of Snæfellsjökull and south of Skessuhorn and Skarðsheiði, south of Borgarfjörður. Eldborg is 120 km / 75 m away from Reykjavík.

BETWEEN Two CLIFFS

Photos & text: Páll Stefánsson

Hornvík Bay in Hornstrandir lies between two of the largest bird cliffs in Iceland, Hælavíkurbjarg to the west and Hornbjarg to the east. In past centuries there were three families' houses in the small bay: Horn, which was abandoned in 1946, Höfn, which was abandoned in 1944, though the rangers' service house is still there at Hornstrandir, and Rekavík behind Höfn, which was abandoned in the same year. Hornstrandir is the northernmost part of Vestfirðir, and was made a nature reserve along with Jökulfjörður in 1975. A well populated community existed there, even though living conditions were very tough, until the middle of the last century, when the whole area was abandoned. There is no road transport to or in the reserve, so walking is the only option to view and explore this area, which is one of the most remote, coldest, and also the most beautiful parts of Iceland. Almost everyone who has been to Hornstrandir agrees on that. Hornvík is the best place to start exploring the area, though it involves both a steep climb and incredibly diverse nature. Whether in its dark cold fog, it's calmness or sunshine, there is nothing to compare to it in the whole country. Boat trips into the area, Jökulfjörður and Hornstrandir are available from both Bolungarvík and Ísafjörður.



Hornbjarg



Hælavík Cliff above Hornvík Bay



Hornbjarg lighthouse and weather observation station at Horn below Hornbjarg peak



The Horn house in Hornvík Bay was abandoned in 1946, but is now used as a summer house



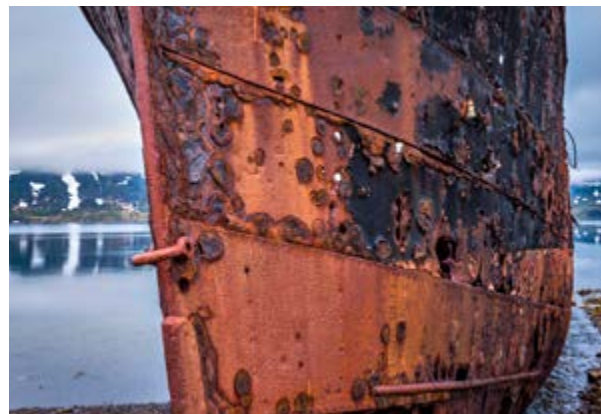
Road 643 runs from Hólmavík and north to Ófeigsfjörður, here is the deserted farm Naustavík by Reykjarfjörður

BEAUTIFUL & SPARSELY POPULATED

The least populated, and also the most remote municipality in Iceland, is Árneshreppur at Strandir, in the Westfjords. The population of this rugged and beautiful region is now over 40 people and around four thousand sheep. The road conditions north from Hólmavík is hard to rely on during the winter months, but residents are guaranteed transport by air, to Gjögur from Reykjavík, but Norlandair flies there once or twice a week, with passengers and goods. There is a lot to see in the district, including two huge herring factories that operated for a short time before the middle of the last century. A great swimming pool, and hiking trails that are hard to match. It is best to visit the area in late summer, when everything is in bloom.



Driftwood and the herring factory in Ingólfsfjörður



Suðurland, a ship that was run aground at the herring factory in Djúpuvík, and used as accommodation for staff.



Ingólfsfjörður where there used to be a big herring factory



The small village Gjögur, now deserted

GLORIOUS DÝRAFJÖRÐUR

Núpur and Mýrarfell

Dýrafjörður lies between Arnarfjörður and Öndarfjörður in the Westfjords. The fjord is over 30 km long, and 9 km wide at the far end. In the middle of the fjord on the south side, under the mountain Sandfell, is the only town in the fjord, the village Þingeyri, which is now part of Ísafjarðarbær, the most populous municipality in the Westfjords. The fjord is named after the Norwegian settler Dýri from Sunnmæri, who built his

house at Háls. The Westfjords Alps are south of Dýrafjörður, where Kaldbakur is and it is the highest mountain in the Westfjords. From Þingeyri, and west along the fjord is the most rugged road in the country, Svalvogsvegur, to Lokinhamrar and then to Hrafnseyri by Arnarfjörður, the birthplace of president Jón Sigurðsson. Icelandic Times / Land & Saga made a trip to the west, because few fjords, areas are as fascinating as Dýrafjörður.



The church at Mýrar at the north of Dýrafjörður, where they have one of the biggest nestingplace for eiderducks



At Garðsendi, just west of Þingeyri, there are these drying houses, most likely used for curing fish, and drying shark



Lokinhamrar



Tóarfjall at the south opening of Dýrafjörður

THE BEER SPA *Adventure in Árskógssandur*



Bathe in beer, tour a brewery and stay in a cosy hotel in a scenic slice of north Iceland

Iceland is home to some of the cleanest, purest water on earth. Travellers are encouraged to drink water from the tap and enjoy the island's bathing facilities, from hot springs to swimming pools to luxurious spas. For a truly unique experience, The Beer Spa, Björböðin, is an ideal place to visit. Located in the village of Árskógssandur in North Iceland, It's one of the first beer spas outside of Eastern Europe, where the owners got the idea.

The beer bath experience

The owners wanted to focus on providing a relaxing experience for guests to soak in a beer bath for 30 minutes, followed by 30 minutes in a relaxation area. The tubs are made from Kambala wood and can hold up to two people. The beer bath is filled with beer, water, hops and yeast, which creates a soothing mixture for your skin. If you are travelling with children, you'll be pleased that the beer bath has no age limit because the water is undrinkable.

Sample the beer, stay for food and comfortable accommodation

For those interested in some food and drinks, there is a restaurant on-site and Kaldi beer

on tap. The restaurant has a succulent menu to cater to the hungry, ranging from small plates like bacon fries and chicken wings to burgers, steaks and fish and chips. In August, a hotel opened its doors, allowing guests to stay longer in the beautiful part of the north. All rooms have ocean views with the small island of Hrísey in the distance; the scenery is as calm and relaxing as the decor. The hotel currently has five rooms open for staying, and the remaining 11 will be available in the spring. The hotel has a café serving light meals during the day.

Family roots in the beer business

The Icelandic family behind The Beer Spa opened the first microbrewery in Iceland in 2006 and travelled to the Czech Republic two years later, enjoying a beer bath. Returning home to Iceland, the idea started brewing to open a beer spa. In 2017 that dream was realised when The Beer Spa opened in the small town of Árskógssandur, close to Dalvík.

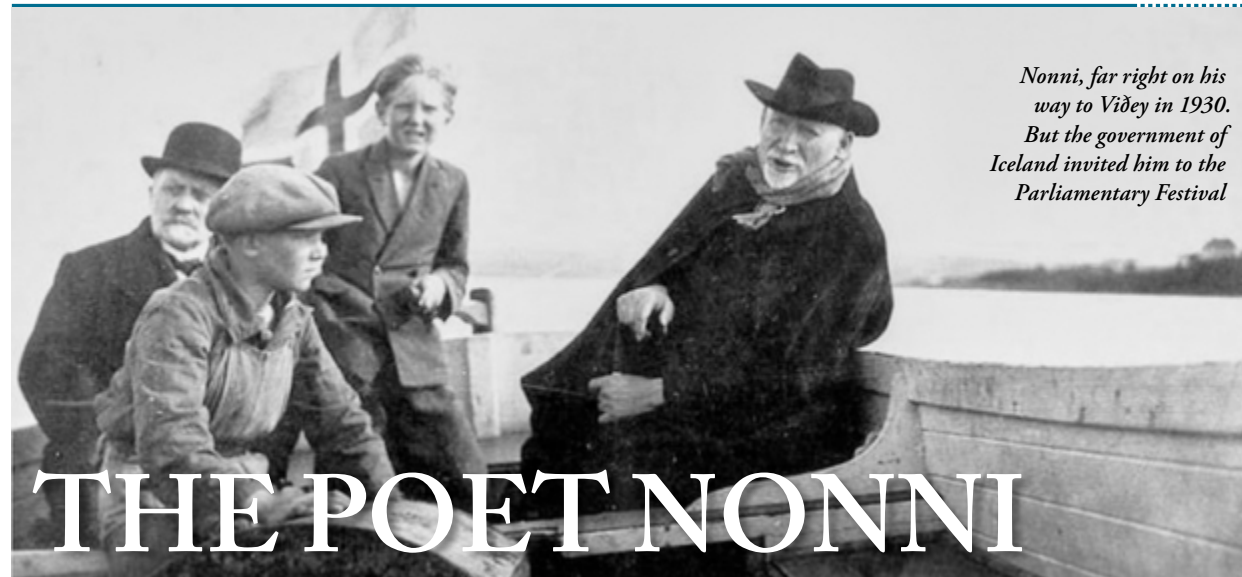
A must for any beer lover is to bathe in beer, savour a pint and enjoy a fantastic view of the fjord from one of the outdoor tubs. Be sure to spend some time in Árskógssandur during your next trip to Iceland!



The Beer Spa

Ægisgata 31 621 Árskógssandi
+354 414 2828
bjorbodin@bjorbodin.is
bjorbodin.is/eng





Nonni, far right on his way to Viðey in 1930. But the government of Iceland invited him to the Parliamentary Festival

THE POET NONNI

One of the best-known and most loved Icelandic writers in the first half of the last century was Jón Sveinsson - Nonni. He wrote 12 Nonni's books, in German, the first *Erlebnisse eines jungen Isländers von ihm selbst erzählt* was published in 1913 and in an Icelandic translation as, *Nonni : brot úr æskusögu Íslendinga : eigin frásögn* in 1922. The books are about the various adventures that Nonni and his brother Manni got into in Akureyri, and in the surrounding countryside in Eyjafjörður. But Jón Sveinsson was born in Hörgárdalur, 1857, and moved to Pálshús in Akureyri

in 1865. On Nonni's centenary in 1957, a museum was opened in the house, and the house is now called Nonnahús. The Nonni books have been translated into almost 40 languages, and published in millions of copies.

Jón Sveinsson was paid to study by a French nobleman, and went to Denmark and France in 1870, and only came home to Iceland twice for the rest of his life, but he died in an air raid on Cologne in Germany in 1944. Jón Sveinsson - Nonni was by far the best known Iclander abroad in the first half of the twentieth century.



Nonnahús is beautifully located in the old town in Akureyri, the dark house on the far left



Sleeping area in Nonnahús



The kitchen in Nonnahús



Nonni in Japan in 1936



Great facilities, with a bar and of course a fantastic view



Hot water, great experience



The approach to the Forest Baths / Forrest Lagoon

A FASCINATING WORLD OF HOT WATER

Opposite Akureyri, at the bottom of Eyjafjörður and below Vaðlaheiði you can find Skógarböðin / Forrest Lagoon. A unique bathing place that opened at the end of May 2022. The pool area consists of two warm pools that are a total of 500 m2 and can accommodate up to 200 guests at a time. The hot water comes from the Vaðlaheiði tunnel, just north of the baths, when the tunnel was being drilled in 2016, between Eyjafjörður and Fnjóskadalur, drillers found a hot water vein, which is now used for Skógarböðin. All design and experiences are exemplary in these new baths near Akureyri.



Forest Lagoon is opposite Akureyri, below Vaðlaheiði



You can see the largest ski area in the country, Hlíðarfjall on the other side of the fjord

THE UNIQUE EYJAFJÖRÐUR

Road nr. 83 from Akureyri to Grenivík

In the middle of the north is Eyjafjörður, a 60 km long fjord, between high mountains. The Eyjafjörður area from Siglufjörður in the north and west to Grenivík in the northeast is the second most populated area in the country with around 30 thousand inhabitants. The vast majority, or two thirds, live at the bottom of the fjord, in Akureyri. Icelandic Times / Land & Saga took a trip, and photographed the landscape and mood today around the beautiful Eyjafjörður. And the name of the fjord is derived from the island Hrísey, the second largest island off the coast of Iceland, which is in the middle of the fjord.



The lighthouse at Svalbarðseyri



Old herring factory at Hjalteyri



Horses by Eyjafjörður



Hjalteyri between Akureyri and Dalvík, a film village, because filming of True Detective, as you can see, takes place in the neighborhood

*Dalvíkurkirkja, consecrated in 1960,
 Látraströnd beyond Eyjafjörður*



VALLEY OF THE VALLEYS

In 1703, 320 years ago when the first census was taken here in Iceland, it was also the first census in the world that covered all the inhabitants of an entire country, where name, age, gender and status were mentioned. Then the inhabitants of Svarfaðardalur, now Dalvíkurbyggð, were 669. Now they are three times as many or 1906. The valley Svarfaðardalur is named after the settler, Þorsteinn Svörfuður, who lived in Grund. The mountains around Svarfaðardalur and Skíðadalur, which lie on the north and west sides of Eyjafjörður, is spectacular. The most beautiful in Iceland, many people think. The mountains that surround the valleys are both steep and high, ranging from a thousand to fourteen hundred meters. Icelandic Times / Land & Saga went to Dalvík and into Svarfaðardalur, here are some snapshots from the trip.



The stables west of Dalvík



Hælingsstaðir, Svarfaðardalur



Horses in Svarfaðardalur



The harbour in Dalvík



Unnamed beautiful waterfall in Skíðadalur



The skiing area at Böggvísstaðafjall close to Dalvík



MÝVATN TOURS

EXPLORE THE INTERIOR OF ICELAND

Enjoy the breathtaking landscapes of Askja and Viti

Iceland's uninhabited interior is home to an otherworldly landscape that must be seen to be believed. It's full of dramatic and wild scenery, swept by endless wind and marked by vast expanses of ice and desert. It's the most distinctive landscape on the island, replete with lava fields and volcanoes.

Explore the highlands with Mývatn Tours

You can venture deep into the highlands on a day tour with the family-run business, Mývatn Tours. The Askja Classic tour, which has been operated for more than 40 years by Mývatn Tours, brings you to Askja on a unique 4x4 bus. Askja is a caldera (sunken crater) within the surrounding Dyngjujöll mountains which offers dramatic volcanic features that were formed by collapsing land after a volcanic eruption. They are essentially huge volcanic craters. The area is remote and

awe-inspiring. Askja, which stands at 1,510 metres, emerges from the Ódáðahraun lava field, amidst rocky terrain.

The awe-inspiring Askja

Askja is in the middle of the Highlands and it takes between 3 to 4 hours to drive there. The trip starts and ends in the village of Reykjahlíð, in the Lake Mývatn area. On the way up to Askja, the bus stops several times to have a closer look at the amazing landscapes and geological wonders, such as lava fields, glacial rivers, fresh water rivers, natural springs and towering mountains.

Travel in a vehicle equipped for the Highlands

Getting to the Highlands is no easy feat as basic rental cars are not suitable for the journey. With Mývatn Tours, you sit up high in a special vehicle designed to navigate the rugged Highlands, with a lot of space for your feet and your belongings. The 4x4 buses can handle the unforgiving lava fields and rivers. You are in safe hands with the experienced and professional drivers, so you can relax and listen to the guide while he tells you about the area.

When the bus arrives at the parking space in Askja around 12–1pm, passengers get 2–2½ hours to explore the area. There is



an approximately 35-minute easy walk from the parking area to Askja and the Viti crater area. Viti is a tremendous crater, filled with a pale blue lake, that emerged after the great eruption of the Askja volcano in 1875 where you can go for a swim, if conditions allow.

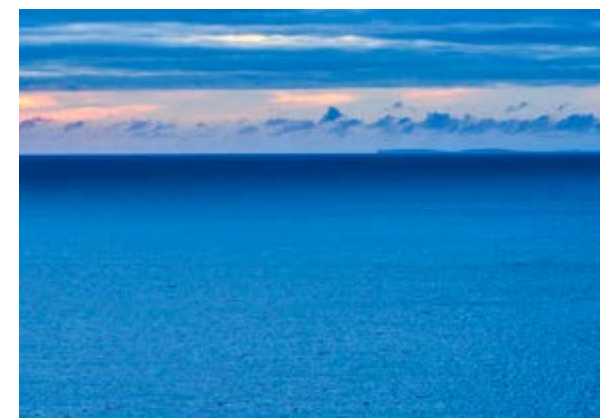
The Highlands are an unforgettable slice of Iceland and the guides of Mývatn Tours can't wait to introduce you to the hauntingly beautiful landscapes of its interior. - JG

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AT RAUÐINÚPUR

In the darkest

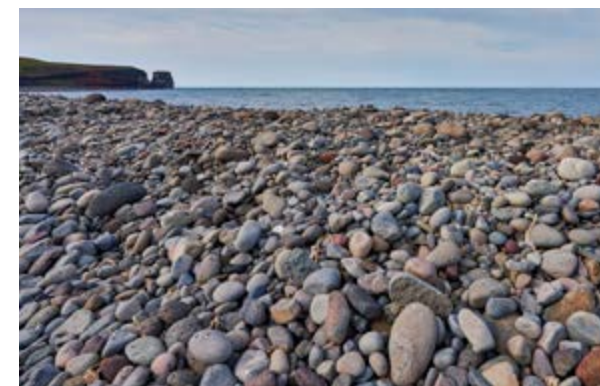
of winter days, one thinks back, to the bright summer nights. Where should you go next summer? The first thing that came to mind is Rauðinúpur, at the northernmost and westernmost part of the Melrakkaslétt, the northernmost part of Iceland. I come there every year, sometimes often, because there is nowhere more beautiful in the summer than there in the northern edge of the world. The light, the bird life, the intimacy with nature. Now it's dark, cold and you don't understand how our ancestors survived the long winters there in the far north. But on Melrakkaslétt, which is now mostly deserted, hundreds of people lived a hundred years ago, who had good thriving lives, and importantly the land was very good for keeping sheep. Short rowing distance to great fishing areas at sea, trout in the lakes and ponds, and harvesting eggs from the thousands of seabirds nesting on the plains gave people quite a nice quality of life, by the standards of the time.



Melrakkaslétt, Rauðinúpur rising from the sea, looking north from Tjörnes.



Grjótanes around midnight in the beginning of June. Rauðinúpur seen rising in the far right. Some say that this is the most beautiful homestead in Iceland.



The beach by Núpsskatla, Rauðinúpur to the left.



Travellers going to Rauðinúpur by Kölluvatn.



KRUA SIAM

Experience Thai Cuisine in North Iceland

In the heart of the largest town of North Iceland, Akureyri, is the Krua Siam restaurant. The restaurant specialises in authentic Thai food and offers fish, meat and vegetarian dishes.

The name Krua Siam means Siam Kitchen and refers to the name of Thailand until 1939. Many Thai customs involve food. It is common for everyone to order a few dishes, which are then shared among the group; it is even seen as bad luck to eat on your own. It is considered important to not throw away leftovers since it can anger the rice goddess, Phosop. Her role is to

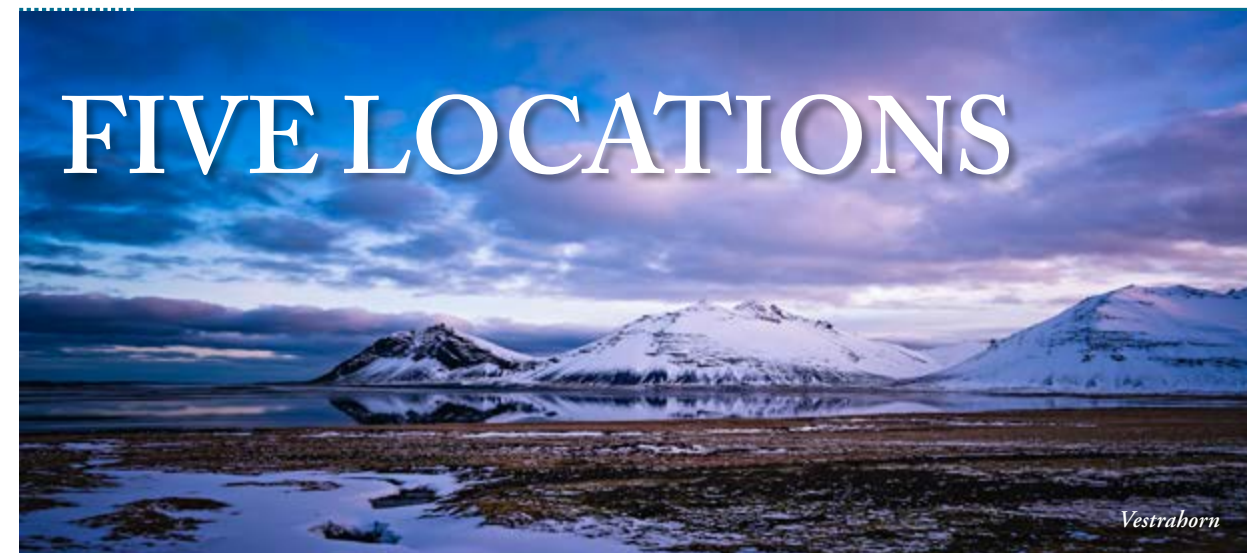
make sure everyone has enough to eat and if she becomes angry, it could mean famine for the whole nation!

Krua Siam offers the option to eat in or take away and has offers for 2 and more people. There is a lunch buffet between 11:30 and 13:30 every weekday with many different courses. You can find dishes with everything from pork, chicken, shrimp, fish and, of course, fried noodles and vegetable dishes, as well.

The restaurant is situated smack downtown on the corner of Glerárgata and Strandgata, near to Ráðhústorgið and



Hof, the Akureyri Cultural and Conference Centre. It is thus a great place to check out during your travels. Enrich your palate with a visit to Krua Siam. –HDB



Vestrahorn

Isn't now the perfect time to dream about travelling to beautiful locations... where to go this winter or plan longer trips around Iceland next summer. One of the spectacular places that come to mind in Iceland is Grænihryggur in Jökulgil in Landmannalaugar. The green color, which is not common, is glass tuff and the green color is caused by a little divalent iron in the glass. You can only go there in the summer time, and the walk from Kýlingarvatn is about 4 hours, round trip. Another wonderful place is Hveradalir in Kerlingarfjöll, where geothermal heat and glaciers meet, you can also only go there in the summer time. Dyrhólaey, is the southernmost part of Iceland's mainland, it's only a two-hour drive from the capital, and accessible all year round. Up there, the view of the south

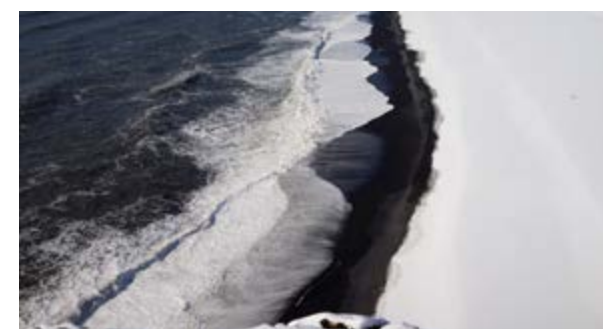
coast, both to the east and west is incredible. It is a five-hour drive east to Hornafjörður, where there are two mountains, Eystra- and Vestrahorn, but few mountains in Iceland are photographed as much as those two, you can get there by Ring Road 1, all year round. The last place I'm going to mention is Jökulsárgljúfur in the north in Öxarfjörður. It's a two-hour drive from Akureyri, a place that leaves no one untouched both in the winter- and summertime. A new and much improved road has been opened west of Jökulsá to get there and have a marvellous look at the canyons and Europe's most powerful waterfall, Dettifoss. Although it should be kept in mind that there is no winter service on the road, so you need to pay attention to the weather forecast when going through these areas in the wintertime.



Grænihryggur



Kerlingarfjöll



Looking south from Dyrhólaey



Jökulsárgljúfur



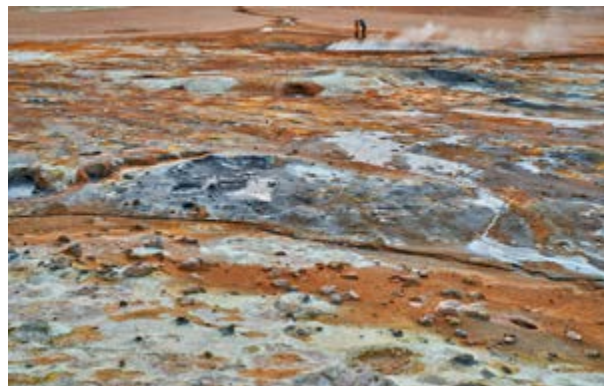
Mývatn in Suður-Pingeyjarsýsla in the north-eastern corner of Iceland, is not only one of the most visited tourist destinations in Iceland. The area by and around the lake, which is the fourth largest in the country, is world-renowned for its unique bird life and great and remarkable volcanic activity. One of the best known and most prosperous salmon fishing rivers in the country, Laxá in Aðaldalur flows from Mývatn. By the lake, there are a number of places that not only attract tourists, but are unique nationally and globally, such as Dimmuborgir, the pseudo craters by Skútustaðir, Hverfjall, Námafjall, Hverarönd and Leirhnjúkur. The lake itself exists in its current form after a volcanic eruption in Lúdentborgir and Þrengsbotnar 2000 years ago. Five hundred years before, Hverfjall, which leaves a strong and beautiful impression on the landscape round Mývatn, had erupted in one big explosive eruption. The last eruptions at Mývatn are Kröflueldar, nine small eruptions, from December 1975 to September 1984. Tourism in the Mývatn region has been exemplary in recent decades, as the area can be visited all year round. From Mývatn, there are 500 km to Reykjavík, almost 100 km to Akureyri, and just over 50 km to Húsavík or Dettifoss.



Hverfjall with its popular hiking tracks. The crater was formed in an explosive eruption over 2500 years ago.



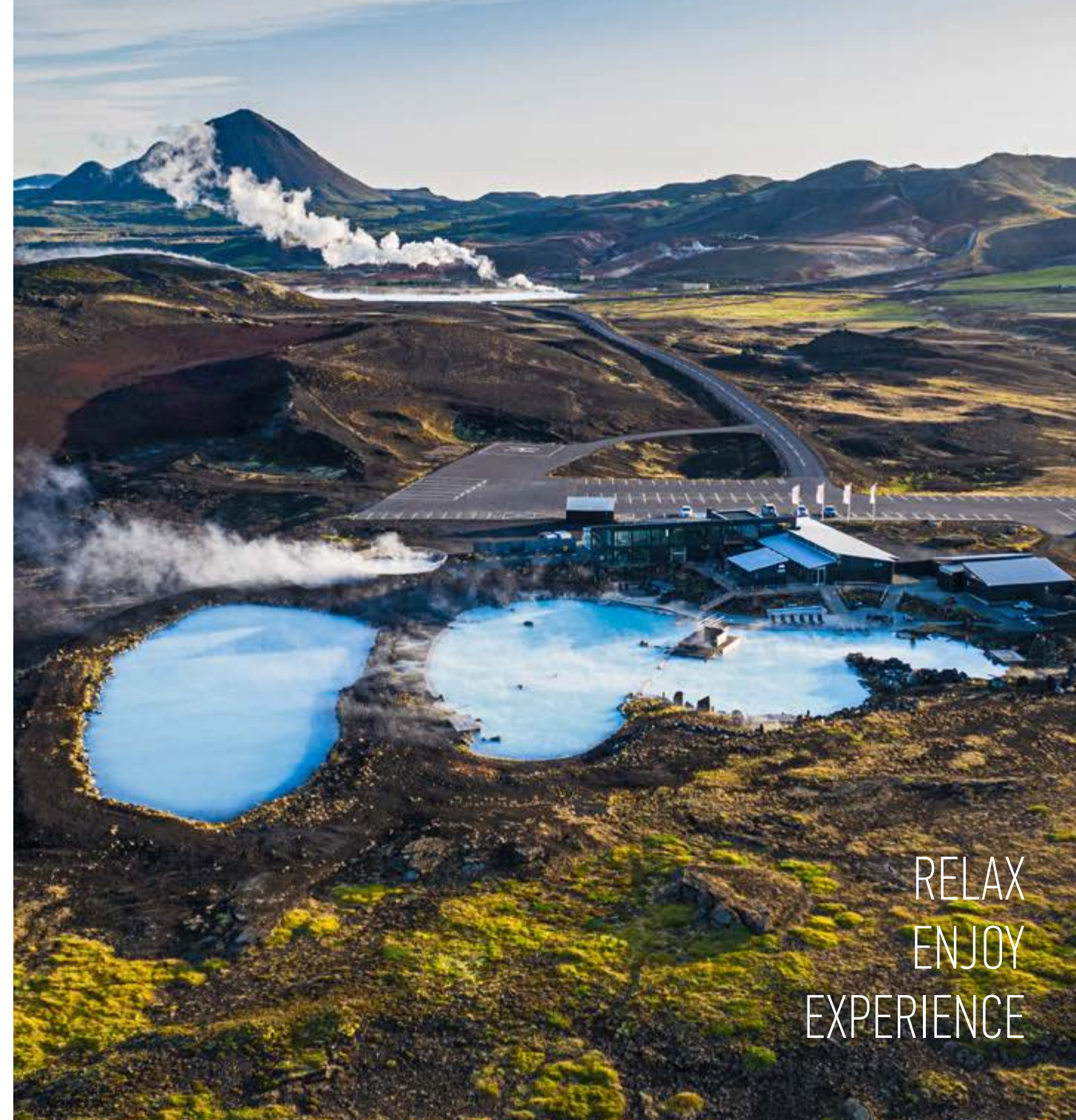
Lava fields from Kröflueldar



Color splendor in the hot spring area at Námaskarð



Travellers by Hverarönd



RELAX
 ENJOY
 EXPERIENCE

MÝVATN NATURE BATHS

pre-book online at naturebaths.is

TENTHOUSAND YEARS



It has been 10,000 years since the highest mountain in the country outside of glaciers, Snæfell, last woke up. Snæfell, which is in Vatnajökull National Park, is the youngest volcano in East Iceland, 1826 meters high, made of rhyolite and tuff. The mountain is impressive as it rises a thousand meters from the plateau 20 km northeast of Vatnajökull. To the east of the mountain are Eyjabakkar, a green area, ideal for heather geese. To the west of the mountain are Vesturöræfi, the main home of reindeer in Iceland. The ascent to the mountain is quite easy from Snæfellsskáli, and the hike is 28 km long in total. There is a decent road to be found to Snæfell, the queen of the East.



The many faces of Snæfell



BIRD PARADISE

In the mouth of the Fáskrúðfjörður fjord lies Skríður island. The island is one big rock made of basalt and acid volcanic rock that rises 160 metres out of the sea. The island belongs to the Vattarnes land and was protected in 1995; it is 530 metres wide and 590 metres long. Over the centuries, there has been a lot of egg harvesting on Skríður, as 18 bird species nest on the island. The birds number in the hundreds of thousands. There are, for example, 300,000 puffins in Skríður alone. It is the most common nesting bird along with the gannet, which started nesting on the island in 1943. Fulmar and black-legged kittiwake are also common nesting birds on Skríður. There is a remarkable cave on the island coast named Skríðhellir. It is estimated at around 4,000 m², 125 metres long, and 80 metres wide at its widest point. Many puffins nest in the cave. Decades ago, fishermen sailed from Skríður and between rowing tours, they stayed in the cave.



Skríður Island in all its glory



Gannets in flight



Nesting gannets on Skríður



The gannet settlement on the east side of Skríður



Looking at Skríðhellir

AURORA BOREALIS

PHOTO AND TEXT: *Páll Stefánsson*



Pingvellir

One of the most amazing things to experience in nature are the northern lights, aurora borealis. These natural lights at an altitude of 100 km are created when charged particles from the sun collide with atoms and molecules in the Earth's atmosphere. Iceland is located in the northern light belt that surrounds the North Pole, about 2000 to 3000 km away from the magnetic pole. But how and where do you see and photograph the aurora borealis. It is an interaction of many factors. First and foremost, there are usually auroras going on. The Icelandic Meteorological Office has a good aurora forecast (in English and Icelandic) about possible activity. Then, of course, you need clear skies, and if all this is lined up, then you have to settle yourself in a good place, away from built-up areas and light pollution. Then it's just a matter of waiting, with a good tripod, a good camera and a lens that captures the moment when it finally arrives. Yes, the best photos are then created with a little luck, because the northern lights are and will not be controlled. The northern lights are unrelated to terrestrial weather, but of course they are not visible in the summer, when the nights are bright. According to the forecast of the Icelandic Meteorological Office, there is little activity for the next few days.



Öxarárfoss, Pingvellir



Lónsveit, Austur-Skaftafellssýsla



Brúarárffoss, Biskupstungur

SKÓGAR MUSEUM

THE CROWN JEWEL AMONG REGIONAL MUSEUMS

This year its former director, Þórður Tómasson celebrated his 100th birthday

Skógar Museum can be found by the majestic Skógafoss waterfall in South Iceland, 150 kilometres east of Reykjavík. It is a cultural heritage collection of over 18,000 artefacts exhibited in three museums. The Museum displays a variety of tools used for fishing and farming, as well as some artefacts dating back to the Viking Age. There is also the Open Air Museum, showcasing historic buildings from the area, and the Technical Museum, which exhibits many historic vehicles and features from the transportation history of Iceland. This museum is the Crown Jewel of Icelandic regional museums.

Fisheries and Agriculture

The Maritime section of the Folk Museum contains a large collection of objects related to fisheries along the south shore of Iceland. Fisheries in this region were unusual because Iceland's sandy south coast has no proper harbours; boats had to be launched from beaches open to the North Atlantic waves. The centrepiece of the section is Pétursey, the eight-oared fishing boat, built in 1855 and used until 1946. The Agriculture section contains tools and utensils used on farms in past times; riding gear, haymaking tools, wool-working and iron-working equipment. In a subsistence economy, farming households had to be self-sustaining, making and repairing all their own tools and utensils. The Folk Museum also has an esoteric collection of everything from textiles to natural history to rare books.

Turf houses & Technology

In the original turf houses rebuilt in the Open Air Museum one can catch Skógar Museum The Crown Jewel among

regional museums the atmosphere of times long gone and experience the living conditions in Iceland throughout the centuries. The Technical Museum tells the story of technology and transportation and its development in Iceland in the 19th and 20th century. Among the many automobiles and two airplanes on exhibit is the world's best preserved Kégresse P15N track – a must-see for all car enthusiasts!

Þórður Tómasson

Þórður Tómasson, the former curator and one of the founders of Skógar Museum has now sadly passed away. Þórður was born in 1921 in Vallnatún in South Iceland and as he was growing up he quickly developed an interest for folkloristics and the cultural heritage of Iceland. At a young age he started to notice the swift changes taking place in the daily life of what was essentially a farming culture that had not changed for centuries. As working methods modernized and old equipment became redundant, the tendency of the farmers was to get rid of it. Þórður started to collect old equipment that was being discarded. He also spent a long time listening to the elderly as he was growing up and later started to document this oral history.

In 1949 a new boarding school opened in Skógar and the first exhibition of the museum took place in the basement of the new school December 1st the same year. The museum expanded rapidly and in 1954 - 1955 a new exhibition building was built east of the boarding school where the museum is currently located.

Initially Þórður Tómasson took responsibility for the museum, and in 1959 he was appointed as curator. He was an organist in two churches and for many years he was a member of the parish councils of both. For ten years he was also a member of the Rangárvellir county council. In 1997 Þórður was awarded an honorary doctorate by the



University of Iceland for his contribution to research in the public interest.

Þórður was one of the most knowledgeable scholars in Icelandic cultural heritage and folkloristics. He has written many books and articles about the subject. The artifacts that he has collected and researched over the years is of great value for the cultural heritage of Iceland. For over 60 years Þórður also took an active part in greeting the visitors of the museum. He would gladly guide people around the museum and usually he would end the visit singing and playing the harmonium. Þórður's heritage and life's work can be seen in Skógar Museum.

Skógar Museum

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Greenland at Fjallabak

When it rains, and it does so often in Fjallabak, the highlands of Rangárvallasýsla and Vestur-Skaftafellssýsla, Iceland is the most green. True Greenland. Up there on the highlands, the moss is somehow greener, and in such a beautiful contrast to the black sand and black lava. In the summer, there are two ways into the area, Fjallabaksleið south and north. Both roads, incredibly beautiful, have a lot of opportunities to go up to the mountains for a view of the area, or into the valleys to experience a hot spring, a stream or a pond, filled with birds. My favorite, in this area... hard to say... Langisjór, Laki, or Skaftá which flows between them.



Moss in Hungurfit



Kýlingavatn. Jökuldalur, between Landmannalaugar and Eldgjá



Faxasund

DISCOVER AN ICE-BLUE WORLD

Jökulsárlón Boat Tours on the Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon

There are few glacial lagoons existing in the world today and certainly none more awe-inspiring and accessible than the renowned Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon, situated at the head of Breiðamerkulljökull outlet glacier on the peerless Vatnajökull Glacier.

Sail Among the Icebergs

Jökulsárlón ehf has been operating boat tours on the east side of the lagoon for the last 30 years. Sail among the icebergs in a 40 minute amphibious boat tour, or take an exciting one hour Zodiac boat tour that goes further into the lagoon, getting you as close as is safe to the icebergs and the glacier itself.

Coffee with a View

Enjoy the spectacular view over the lagoon in the small café where you can get homemade soup with bread, fresh sandwiches, cakes with coffee or tea which can be either taken out on the terrace or consumed inside.

The Show of Fire and Ice

The magnificent annual fireworks display over the lagoon can be described without a doubt as one of the most memorable fireworks shows on earth. The event, held annually in late August, starts at 11.30 pm, with proceeds going to Iceland's volunteer search and rescue organization, ICESAR.

Located within a few hundred metres of Route No. 1, the lagoon is actually much bigger and deeper than it appears. With an area measuring over 28 square

km (9.6 square miles), you could easily fit the island of Heimaey (in the Westman Islands) into it with room to spare. At over 300m (984 feet) deep, five Leaning Towers of Pisa, stacked one on top of the other, would fit inside the lagoon with room to spare. With the ebb and flow of the tides, sea water enters into the lagoon bringing with it krill, capelin, herring and salmon. Curious seals know where the food is plentiful and can often be seen bobbing along with the currents, swimming in and out between the icebergs and appearing to enjoy the attention from onlookers on the shore. Across the road, near the delta where fresh and salt water converge, you can walk down to the water's edge to witness the rather surreal sight of baby 'bergs' beached on the shoreline.

-EMV



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HELLISHÓLAR COTTAGES, GUESTHOUSE AND HOTEL

A LITTLE BIT OF ICELANDIC PARADISE



Set in one of the most idyllic locations in South Iceland, Hellishólar offers a variety of accommodations for the weary traveller who is looking for a good night's sleep in peaceful surroundings.

The sprawling Hellishólar property is located 17 minutes from Route 1, near the village of Hvalsöllum in the middle of Fljótslíð, a picturesque farming district sheltered by three glaciers: Mýrdalsjökull, Eyjafjallajökull and Tindfjallajökull.

Cosy Cottages

Why not bed down for the night in one of Hellishólar's 25 popular, fully-furnished cottages? Each cottage can sleep from 3 to 6 people and has a small kitchen for making your own meals. If you prefer, you can also eat your meals in the on-site restaurant that serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.

So Many Choices!

At Hellishólar, there is also a guesthouse and a brand new hotel called Hótel Eyjafjallajökull with 36 spacious and comfortable bedrooms, each with an ensuite bathroom.

A Glorious View of Nature

The views from Hellishólar are, in a word, stunning! In winter, when the Northern



Lights are visible, one has only to step outside the door and look up. The lack of light pollution makes Hellishólar an ideal location for viewing the Northern Lights.

In summer, the long days bring optimum opportunities to experience the many activities that are possible at Hellishólar—trout fishing on the lake, salmon fishing from the river that runs through the

property and enjoying a round of golf on the 9-hole golf course. Hellishólar is the perfect base from which to explore South Iceland year-round. See you there! -EMV



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PHOTO AND TEXT: Páll Stefánsson

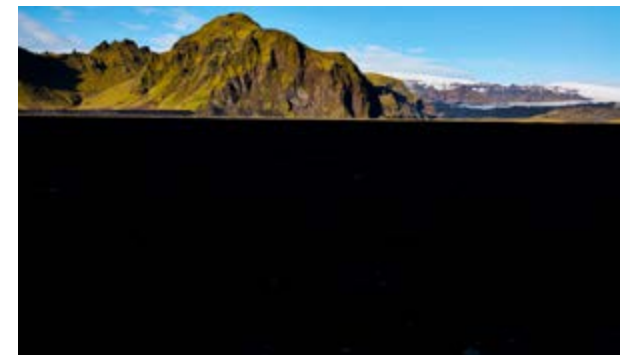


The Katla Glacier Cave

In Katla Glacier is one of the most beautiful and accessible ice caves in the country. The cave is charming, but danger looms above. The volcano Katla is overdue. Icelandic Times / Land & Saga, of course, went south today. You can't miss seeing such a wonder, like the ice cave in Katla Glacier.

When Katla last erupted in 1918, it was catastrophic. Every hundred years or so, a major eruption happens in Katla, meaning it is over 100 years since there was a large eruption last.

It erupted in 1860, 1823, 1755, 1721, 1660, 1625, 1612, and 1580. Many were enormous eruptions, the largest in 1755 and 934 when there was a giant eruption in Katla. When will it erupt next? No one knows, but it'll be soon... probably.



The Katla volcano in Mýrdalsjökull is on the far left, next to Katla Glacier



Photographing the opening of the cave



Chinese ballet dancer filming a film scene in the cave



Skaftáreldar AT LAKI

Tjarnargígur south of Laki



Today Lakagígur are grown with moss, but the area is charming for outdoor activities such and hiking and simply enjoying the power of nature.

Next year, there will be 240 years since one of the biggest volcanic eruptions in Iceland's history began, on June 8, 1783 by the mountain Laki, southwest of Vatnajökull in Vestur-Skaftafellssýsla. The eruption happened on a 25 km long series of craters, the Laki craters, with about 135 craters. The eruption lasted eight months. The lava field, the Skaftáreldar lava field, is the second largest in historical time where the total volume of the lava is about 13 km³ and its area covers 580 km² of land. The lava actually has two names, the western part is called Eldhraun, while the eastern part is called Brunahraun. Laki

craters were declared to be preserved in 1971, and are now a part of Vatnajökull National Park. Ash and volcanic fumes caused a lot of mist and fog over Iceland, fog that then later also spread over Europe, America and east to Asia. Heavy pollution accompanied the haze, so livestock fell in great numbers, which in turn led to famine not only here, but all over the Northern Hemisphere. These were the Móðuharðindi, the greatest disasters that have befallen Icelanders before that time and ever since. About 20% of the population died in the Móðuharðindi. It was only a few lifespans ago. Will we get another eruption like this soon? It is up to the whims of nature.

PHOTO AND TEXT: *Páll Stefánsson*



Summer night by Skaftá, wich runs through the area



Lakagígur at the front, then Fögrufjöll by Langisjór to the north and the west of the craters seen in the wintertime



The road that goes around Lakagígur

ÁRNESSÝSLA HERITAGE MUSEUM

The history of the Árnessýsla Heritage Museum began in 1953, almost 70 years ago. In the beginning, it mainly held objects from the old farming community, with its emphasis on farming, trade and the fishing industry until mechanization. During these 70 years, of course, the emphasis has changed, and now more emphasis is placed on the daily life and households until the middle of the last century. The museum's first home was in Selfoss, but it was moved to Eyrarbakki in 1995. "Húsið á Eyrarbakki, the oldest house in South Iceland, was built in 1765 and is our main jewel", says Lýður Pálsson, historian and museum director for 30 years. "These beautiful and unique buildings should be enjoyed, as they are, in fact, the main exhibits. Therefore, special emphasis is placed on the history of Húsið – The House – and its cultural significance in recent centuries." When the merchant Jens Lassen built The House in 1765, Eyrarbakki was probably the Lýður Pálsson, historian and museum director

largest trading place in Iceland. This was towards the end of the Danish-Icelandic Trade Monopoly, which lasted from 1602 to 1787. During this period, the citizens of the country were not allowed to trade with other merchants or foreign ships. At the time, it seemed that Eyrarbakki would be made the capital of Iceland, as it had a much larger population than Reykjavík.

Two other museums in Eyrarbakki belong to Árnessýsla Heritage Museum. The Maritime Museum, as Eyrarbakki was, through the centuries, one of the largest trading ports in the country, and Kirkjubær, an Icelandic family home built in 1920, where we go back a hundred years and see how ordinary poor people lived. Both museums are within walking distance of The House.

The well-known Icelandic painter Ásgrímur Jónsson (1876-1958) and the women of Eyrarbakki will be the focus of Bygðasafn Árnesinga in 2023. The spring exhibition, which will be ongoing until June, focuses on the childhood of Ásgrímur, who was born in a small hut of poor farmers in 1876. Ásgrímur Jónsson was born in Árnessýsla 1876, from confirmation age he was a helping hand in Húsið in Eyrarbakki. There he got to know Danish merchant culture, acquired his first watercolors and started following the path of art. The museum's summer exhibition, which opens on June 17, is about many aspects of the lives and work of women in Eyrarbakki and is based on texts and relevant objects. The women often worked under the guidance of their husbands, but individual women took



unconventional paths and rebelled against male rule. Other women did their work impeccably in silence, and the exhibition sheds light on their lives in a small village in the south of Iceland.

It only takes 45 minutes to drive from Reykjavík, or 15 minutes from the Ring Road from Selfoss. The museums in Eyrarbakki are open every day from May 1 - September 30 at 10-17 and by agreement at other times.

You can learn about the museum on the website www.bygghdasafn.is and we are on Facebook and Instagram.



ICELAND THE GLACIAL COUNTRY



Iceberg at Fellsfjara by Jökulsárlón



Ice cave under Breiðamerkurjökull



Tourists at Fjallsárlón in Örefajökull, Vatnajökull



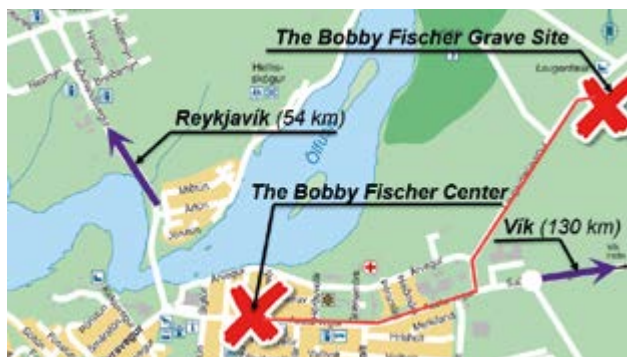
On top of Mýrdalsjökull

Glaciers cover more than a tenth of Iceland. The largest, by far the largest, is Vatnajökull in the southeast corner of the country. It is the largest glacier in the world outside the arctic regions, covering 8000 km², next in line is Langjökull 950 km², just a few square kilometers larger than Hofsjökull. Number four is Mýrdalsjökull, which is almost 600 km² in size. Then comes Drangajökull in the west at Strandir, but it covers 160 km² of land. Other glaciers are much smaller. The smallest of the large glaciers and number thirteen in the series is Snæfellsjökull, which is about 3 square kilometers in size. Since 1995, for almost 30 years, Vatnajökull has shrunk by almost one and a half the size of Snæfellsjökull per year.

THE BOBBY FISCHER CENTER

It is housing a memorabilia of the 11th World Chess Champion BOBBY FISCHER and the Selfoss Chess Club.

The American Bobby Fischer became the World Chess Champion when he defeated the Soviet grandmaster and reigning World champion Boris Spassky in Reykjavik in the summer of 1972. The match is generally referred to as the Match of the Century. It took place at the height of the Cold War, mirroring the tense relations between the two superpowers, United States of America and the Soviet union. Since 1948 Soviet chess players had held the World championship title - uninterrupted for quarter of a century. On display at the Bobby Fischer Center in Selfoss are among other things Spassky's and Fischer's scoresheets, a printout from the radiation measurements demanded by Spassky's delegation after the 17th game and a replica of the chess board used during the match which was staged in Laugardalshöll in Reykjavik. In addition many curious items related to Bobby Fischer's stay in Iceland during his last years (2005-2008), for example his chair from the antiquarian bookshop Bókin in Reykjavik. He died on 17th of January 2008 at the age of 64. Bobby Fischer's final resting place is at Laugardælir cemetery, a few hundred meters away from Bobby Fischer center.



I WANT TO GO TO LANGISJÓR



What is the most beautiful place in Iceland? I'm often asked this question. And, of course, there is no one place the most beautiful. The light, the atmosphere, the season, and history make a place or moment come alive. But Langanes and Arnarfjörður are the first two places that come to mind. Langanes is number one. If I give it a little thought, then, of course, Vatnajökull and Öxarfjörður are fighting for first place. But suppose I add everything I have seen and experienced in Iceland's nature. In that case, Langisjór in Vatnajökull National Park, west of Laki, in Vestur – Skaftafellssýsla, is the most beautiful spot in the country. That is my opinion today.... tomorrow it could be Ásbyrgi, Landmannalaugar, Melrakkasléttur, Álftanes, Þingvellir, or of course, Hornbjarg, which has no equivalent in our nature. But at least here are pictures of Langisjór.



Langisjór



Fjallabak Langisjór



Langisjór



Skaftá Langisjór



SAGNAHEIMAR FOLK MUSEUM in the magical Westman Islands

The Folk Museum of Vestmannaeyjar – the Westman Islands – is a museum built on old traditions. In addition to the many artifacts housed there, today's technology gives the history and culture a new dimension. While the adults are learning about the stories of fishing, cliff hunting, the Eldfell eruption of 1973 and the Algerian pirate raid of 1627, the children can dress themselves in pirate costumes and search for hidden treasures in the Pirate Cave. Displays and exhibits showing the deep connection with the Mormons, the colourful sports history of the Islands, the reconstructed fishing shack from yester-year or the "Festival" tent where islanders entertain during the annual Þjóðhátíð – National Festival can also be investigated. At the end of the 19th century, when the population was about 600, great changes took place. In 1904, the first motorised boat was purchased, and more followed soon afterwards. By 1930, the population had risen to 3,470. Now the Westman Islands are Iceland's most productive fishing centre.

The Volcanic Eruption of 1973

The volcanic eruption in Heimaey shook the Islanders and indeed Icelanders fifty years ago. In the early hours of 23rd January 1973 the volcano, Eldfell,

erupted on Heimaey and the whole population of 5,300 had to immediately be evacuated to the mainland. That fateful night and the following days are chronicled in an array of photos. There are recordings of Islanders telling their personal experiences of the eruption and the rebuilding of their town in the aftermath.

The Turkish Abduction

Another traumatic event befell on the Islanders 16th July 1627, when three Algerian ships sailed north up the Atlantic to the eastern shores of Heimaey. It is known as the Turkish Abduction because Algiers was under the control of the Turkish Ottomans. Three hundred Pirates disembarked and captured 242 islanders whom they brought to Algeria where they were sold into slavery. The story of this fateful day is vividly captured. The pirate cave is a wonderland for children. One of the captives, Lutheran minister Ólafur Egilsson returned in 1628 and wrote a book about the event. In 1636, ransom was paid for 34 of the captives but most spent the rest of their lives in bondage in the Muslim world. After this, a small fort was built at Skansinn – The Bastion – as armed guards kept watch from Helgafell mountain. The Islands

are famed for their annual Þjóðhátíð – National Festival – which attracts thousands of people from the mainland. The festival was first held in 1874, at the commemoration of the millennium of the settlement of Iceland. For the first time, a Danish King was visiting Iceland: Christian IX, who brought the Icelanders their Constitution that paved the way to sovereign statehood. The Westman Islanders were prevented from sailing to the mainland for the festivities by bad weather, so held their own celebration locally and have done so ever since.

The Mormon connection

The Mormons also have their historical story exhibited at the museum. The first Icelandic Mormon missionaries, Þórarinn Hafliðason from Vestmannaeyjar and Guðmundur Guðmundsson from Rangárvellir on the south coast, worked in Vestmannaeyjar. Between 1854 and 1914 about 200 Islanders emigrated from the island to the Western World. The Mormon exhibit is in collaboration with Brigham Young University in Utah, along with a large group of enthusiasts who have researched the history and destiny of these pioneers. -HH



Mykines, ferry from Smyril Line, bringing cars to Iceland from Europe



The town of Þorlákshöfn on the south coast, where Reykjanes meets Suðurland, now has around 2000 inhabitants. Þorlákshöfn is just over a 45 minutes drive from Reykjavík and is the town, or municipality of Ölfus, that is growing the most rapidly in Iceland. There is an excellent port there, where the Faroe Island's shipping company Smyril Line Cargo sails three times a week from Europe to Þorlákshöfn with goods. After all, the harbor is excellent, for cargo and fishing vessels, the nearest good harbor in the east is Höfn in Hornafjörður, over 400 km away. Þorlákshöfn was built primarily as a fishing village in the beginning. When the place Elliðahöfn, which was renamed Þorlákshöfn 70 years ago, 14 people lived there. Construction are now almost completed on the largest fish farm on land, at Þorlákshöfn, a station that is estimated to produce 20 thousand tons of salmon per year, and create 150 to 200 jobs. The export value could reach 20 thousand million per year.



Fishing containers by the harbour



Budding constructions sites in Þorlákshöfn



The beautiful harbour in Þorlákshöfn



Pumice stone being exported through Þorlákshöfn



They have a great swimming pool and sports hall in Ölfus, Þorlákshöfn



Looking across Reykjadalir by Hrafninnusker over to Tindfjallajökull in the southwest

Hrafninnusker is a unique place in Iceland. Hrafninnusker is the first destination when walking the Laugavegur, the country's most popular highland hiking route, from Landmannalaugar over to Þórsmörk. There is a 12 km well-marked footpath, quite steep, as Hrafninnusker is the highest point of the Laugavegur, it has an altitude of 1,100 meters. At Hrafninnusker is the Iceland Travel Association's cabin, Höskuldarskáli, built in 1977. To the south of Hrafninnusker the closest cabin is by Álftavatn. What makes Hrafninnusker so unique are the colors, hot springs, glaciers and piles of snow, which are still there in the middle of September even after a good summer. In this area, by Torfajökull is one of the biggest high temperature areas in the country. There is a jeep trail to Hrafninnusker, but it is only accessible to powerful mountain jeeps and only for a few weeks a year.



Geothermal area below Hrafninnusker



The ice cave in Hrafninnusker



Looking down into a hot spring right by the ice cave

THE HOUSE THAT DISAPPEARED



None of Heimaey's 5,300 inhabitants had ever expected that a volcanic eruption could make them homeless. But on 23rd January 1973, earthquakes started to shake the small island south of the Icelandic mainland. Only hours later a 2,000 metre-long crevice opened just outside the town and close to the church, pouring fountains of lava and ash over Heimaey's houses and streets.

In less than one hour all the inhabitants had been evacuated, without any chance of saving their belongings. Some people never returned to the island.

Heroes Saving a Home

Two hundred brave men stayed in the danger zone to fight the devastation, and finally succeeded in slowing down the lava flow by cooling it with seawater and thus saved the port. However, when 5 months later, the eruption came to its end, around 400 houses had been completely destroyed.

This volcanic eruption made headlines worldwide, bringing back memories of the Italian town of Pompeii which, in

73 AD, was buried under thick layers of ash and lava from Mt. Vesuvius. Huge parts of that historic site have since been excavated—so people on the Westman Islands rolled up their sleeves and started doing the same.

'Pompeii of the North' deserves its name: 40 years after the disaster some 10 houses have been raised from the ashes, and an impressive museum tops off the excavation site that had been open to visitors since the very first dig.

A Museum as a Mirror

Eldheimar's design is unique, rather ominous, and yet austere. It is an architectural masterpiece made of volcanic stone that perfectly mirrors the inexorability and harshness of nature. Its beating heart right in the centre of the building is Gerðisbraut No. 10, the house that had been situated on the slope of the lava-spewing volcano. Having been fully excavated, it displays life on the day of the eruption and now serves as a memorial for a lost homeland.

In Eldheimar's over 1,000m² museum, visitors are presented multimedia shows and exhibitions about the Westman



Island's Eldfjall volcano that, in 1973 rose up to a height of 220 metres out of the blue, not existing before its eruption.

It was similar to the submarine volcano that erupted in 1963 and lasted four years creating the island of Surtsey, south of Heimaey.

Nature protection laws protect Surtsey and only scientists are allowed to access the island for research reasons. The island is part of the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage since 2008.

The Eldheimar museum is quite open in both design and guidance in the exhibition halls as well as in the café and shop. It leaves enough space for walking around and contemplating the natural disaster and its impacts on the economic and cultural life of the Westman Islands, creating respect for the determination of its fearless inhabitants, who still brave the elements today.

-DT



ON TOP OF THE WORLD *Glacier Jeeps*

The largest glacier in Europe



The weather report was looking good—a full day of sunshine ahead of me and temperatures above 10°C. I was on my way to a face to face encounter with the world's 3rd largest glacier, the mighty Vatnajökull. This trip would mark a couple of firsts for me—my first time ever to set foot on a glacier, and my first time to travel by snowmobile. Needless to say I was really excited!

I first met Kristján and Bjarney, of Glacier Jeeps, at our pre-arranged meeting place: Vagnsstaðir. This is the official meeting place for all Glacier Jeep summer tours. Glacier Jeeps has years of experience conducting jeep, snowmobile and hiking tours on the glacier since 1994. (Bjarney has been helping run the family business since she was 14 years old.) I parked my car and joined them in their sturdy 4WD, which wound its way slowly every upwards on road F985 after a short drive on Route No. 1. The gravel road twisted and turned around hairpin bends, past waterfalls and deep canyons. My guides fill me in on the details of the landscape, pointing out how the glacier has crawled across the terrain, devastating everything in its path along with other interesting facts.

It is about a forty minute drive from Vagnsstaðir to the roots of Vatnajökull Glacier where we suit up with boots, warm overalls and helmets for the snowmobile excursion.

Now it's time to test drive the snowmobiles. I am a little hesitant at first and Kristján shows me the ropes. It looks easy enough but I decide that I prefer to let him drive over the glacier with me sitting safely behind him on this 'skidoo for two', at least until I get a better feel for it. 'Off we go over the wild white yonder, climbing high into the sun' to paraphrase an old song, with cloudless blue skies above us and the wind in our faces. Further along we stop and dismount, to take in the magnificent panoramic views over the glacier, the Atlantic Ocean and the town of Höfn far below in the distance. I felt like I was on top of the world and it was truly a cause for celebration!

Kristján jokes that we cannot go onwards unless I drive. By now I am feeling a little more sure of myself and agree to give it a try. This time we are off to inspect a massive sheer rock face that rises straight up from the glacier at an elevation of 1200 metres. Finally, our one

hour snowmobile adventure comes to an end and it is time to return to base.

Glacier Jeeps also offers a hiking tour of the glacier that comes with all the equipment such as safety helmets, climbing irons and ice axe, instruction and a guide, included in the price.

In case you just don't think a strenuous hike or a thrilling snowmobile adventure is for you, then Glacier Jeeps offers an alternative to see the glacier in a comfortable, specially equipped 4WD and is available year round, weather permitting. Each tour is only 3 to 4 hours in total, giving you plenty of time to do other things with your day, even though once you are up there you may not want to come down. Although it's best to book one day in advance, you can also just show up at Vagnsstaðir at either 9.30 am or 2.00 pm and join the tour from there.

Vatnajökull Glacier Jeep tours: a must for your bucket list! -EMV



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GATEWAY TO. VATNAJÖKULL

Hornafjörður is a scenic slice of Southeast Iceland

Iceland earns its “fire and ice” reputation in the southeast as you see the mighty Vatnajökull glacier descend into black sands and hot streams of water erupting from frozen banks of ice. There’s a good reason why this is such a popular region for tourists.

The town of Höfn, which means harbour, is the gateway to the Vatnajökull glacier and is a convenient base when exploring the southeast, with numerous restaurants, hotels and guesthouses, museums and a fantastic swimming pool. The nature and hiking opportunities in the region are unrivalled, with breathtaking mountainous and glacial views.



Höfn, Höfnin, Batar - Þorvarður Árnason

Explore vast Vatnajökull

For many visitors, Vatnajökull is the draw to the region. Vatnajökull glacier features miles of white, pure ice intertwined with blue and smoky hues in interesting shapes formed by compression. It’s a vast, wide-open space, sitting on top of active volcanoes.

Vatnajökull is the largest glacier in Europe and the third largest in the world (after glaciers in Greenland and Antarctica). It spans 8,805 square kilometres, which covers about 8 percent of the country, with an average thickness of 400 metres.

Vatnajökull’s vast, rugged terrain is a significant draw for hikers and climbers worldwide, and several local companies offer guided tours. Vatnajökull National Park covers over 60% of the Hornafjörður municipality, offering many hiking opportunities.

See icebergs up close and personal

Jökulsárlón lagoon is a spectacular sight with chunks of ice scattered about the sands, walls of ice jutting from the sea, and icebergs of various sizes floating on the water. While not very wide, it’s up to 250 metres deep, making it the deepest lake in Iceland. Huge blocks of ice constantly break

off the Breiðamerkurjökull glacier into the lagoon—and then slowly move toward a river mouth and the Atlantic Ocean.

Glacier lagoons are popular destinations, including Jökulsárlón, Fjallsárlón and Heinabergslón. Several companies offer amphibian, zodiac and kayak tours of the lagoons, where you can get up close to icebergs. There are also numerous hiking opportunities around the lagoons for travellers who want to enjoy the nature and explore on their own.

You can also venture to the river mouth and the nearby Diamond Beach. Chunks of ice sometimes wash ashore and are scattered about like giant diamonds against a backdrop of black sand. The scene is spectacular any time of year but genuinely magical when the sun shines.

Southeast Iceland is a can’t miss destination, and Hornafjörður is at the centre of it all. Be sure to spend some time in this beautiful part of Iceland during your trip.



Vatnajökull
<https://visitvatnajokull.is>
info@visitvatnajokull.is



Fláajökull, Loftmynd - Þorvarður Árnason



Eystrahorn, Loftmynd - Páll Jökull Pétursson



Fjallsárlón - Þorvarður Árnason

VOLCANIC VESTMANNAEYJAR

PHOTOGRAFER: *Kristinn H. Benediktsson*

Marking 50 Years since the Eruption



Kristín Jóhannsdóttir, Director at Eldheimar - Volcano Museum. Photo Baju Wijono

The Westman Islands will remember the event this summer with exhibitions and concerts

Most of Heimaey's residents left by boat, and thankfully there were no deaths. Following the eruption, Eldfell, a volcanic cone that means "fire mountain" in Icelandic, formed. It stands 200 metres high and has become some of Iceland's newest land. Today, Icelanders and tourists alike hike in the region and soak up the scenery.

Eldheimar museum

Eldheimar is a fascinating interactive museum about the 1973 volcanic eruption. It includes photos, surviving structures, and an overview of the volcanic geology of the region. Videos illustrate the force of the volcanic eruption and destruction left in its wake, and maps light up on the walls, pointing out volcanoes around the island.

The collection continues to grow. Earlier this year, Eldheimar received for preservation a remarkable film that geologist Ingvar Birgir Friðleifsson shot during the first days of the eruption. He was then studying for a PhD in geology at Oxford. The day after the eruption began, the director of the school's geology department invited him to go to Heimaey to film to preserve the event for science.

This summer, Vestmannaeyjar will be holding a celebration at the beginning of July to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the eruption. At Eldheimar, events will be organised, including an art exhibition from two of Iceland's best artists, sculptor and painter Hulda Hákon and painter Jón Öskar. There will be music and stories told by Vestmannaeyjar-born Gísli Helgason and his band and a concert held by Magnus R. Einarsson, playing music from the year of the eruption.

Close to the mainland

Visitors can get to the island through the ferry Herjólfur which runs daily from May to September. Travellers can bring their cars on the ferry for an extra fee, but it isn't necessary, given the island's small size. The Herjólfur ferry departs from Landeyjahöfn in South Iceland, and the ferry ride is about 40 minutes, making it a quick and easy trip.

Great place to visit

For a small island, there are a lot of activities and attractions to take advantage of. There are boat tours, rib safaris, ATV tours, hiking trails, bicycle rentals and chances to see wildlife.

In fact, Westman Island's puffin population is the main attraction for tens of thousands of visitors as their bright orange feet, round bodies, and striped bills are irresistible, making them Iceland's unofficial mascot. It's lovely to walk along the sea cliffs and spend some time with the adorable birds, photographing them and taking in the landscape. The prime puffin-watching season is from June to August, so if you are visiting Iceland during the summer, make sure to stop over in the Westman Islands.

The Westman Islands' newest wildlife attraction is for whale lovers. The arrival of Little Grey and Little White, two beluga whales that were moved from China to Iceland in 2019, now call Vestmannaeyjar home. Sea Life Trust, a nonprofit, is behind the sanctuary, and guests can join a boat tour of the bay the whales now call home.

The Westman Islands are an ideal spot to spend some time when visiting the south of Iceland. There are numerous hotels, guesthouses and restaurants that make overnight stays irresistible. Consider travelling to the Westman Islands this summer and help mark the 50th anniversary of the 1973 volcanic eruption that has shaped the islands in multiple ways.



Visit VESTMANNAEYJAR

The charming Westman Islands offer exciting activities, wildlife-watching and culture

The Westman Islands (Vestmannaeyjar) are chock-full of rocky ridges and bird-watching opportunities. Heimaey, the only inhabited island, is where all the sights, tours, restaurants, and museums are located. With fewer than 5,000 residents, it's an isolated community surrounded by beauty, and it truly comes alive during the summer months.

Easy to reach

Visitors can get to the island through the ferry Herjólfur which runs daily from May to September. Travellers can bring their cars on the ferry for an extra fee, but it isn't necessary, given the island's small size. The Herjólfur ferry departs from Landeyjahöfn in South Iceland, and the ferry ride is about 40 minutes, making it a quick and easy trip.

Exciting tours and activities

For a small island, there are a lot of activities to choose from. Viking Tours sells lovely boat tours departing from Heimaey harbour daily. On the 1.5-hour tour, you'll see the rugged lava coastline, steep bird cliffs, and vast ocean caves. If you're up for more adventure, there are thrilling rib boat tours and ATV tours around the volcanic area of the island. Viking Tours also sells private tours and rents bicycles if you want to explore the island on two wheels.

See puffins and whales

The island's puffin population is the main attraction for tens of thousands of visitors. The puffins are cute, charismatic, and classically Icelandic. Their bright orange feet, round bodies, and striped bills are

irresistible to children and adults alike. Walk along the sea cliffs and spend some time with the adorable birds. The prime puffin-watching season is from June to August. The Westman Islands' latest wildlife attraction is the arrival of Little Grey and Little White, two beluga whales that were moved from China to Iceland in 2019. Sea Life Trust, a nonprofit, is behind the sanctuary, and guests can join a boat tour of the bay the whales now call home.

Volcanic eruption of 1973

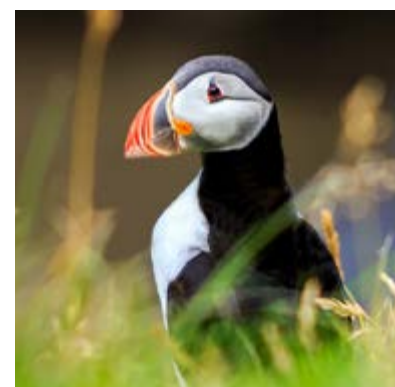
There's so much to see and do in the Westman Islands. Eldfell, a "fire mountain" in Icelandic, is a volcanic cone reaching 200 metres high. It was formed after the 1973 volcanic eruption on Heimaey, which came without warning and displaced more than

3,000 Icelanders. Ash from the eruption fell for weeks, destroying homes, farms and livestock. Most of Heimaey's residents left by boat, and thankfully there were no deaths. There's an interesting museum, Eldheimar, dedicated to the eruption.

Get "lost" in nature

Heimaey has a little bit of everything. Because of its small size, it's impossible to get lost, but there are moments when you will feel completely isolated and serene if you choose to go on a hike. Many decide to roam the base of the Eldfell volcano, watch the personality-packed puffins in the summer, and stroll downtown. You won't find a plethora of arduous treks, but the island is an opportunity for casual strolls and prime picture-taking. There are about 12 kilometres of trails along the coast.

The Westman Islands are an ideal spot to spend some time when visiting the south of Iceland. There are numerous hotels, guesthouses and restaurants that make overnight stays irresistible. Consider spending a night or two in the Westman Islands on your next trip to Iceland!





samkaup

Delightful Bakeries IN SOUTH ICELAND



Almar Bakari offers delectable pastries and sandwiches in three locations

Almar Bakari is ideal for enjoying delicious pastries and savoury sandwiches when travelling in South Iceland. The family-run bakery has locations in Hveragerði, Selfoss and Hella. The owners, Almar Þór Þorgeirsson and Ólöf (Lóa) Ingibergsdóttir, put passion and love into their baking. “We pride ourselves on having a great selection of pastries,” says Lóa. “And if you are going on a picnic, we have a great selection of sandwiches.” Customers can find delicious sandwiches like turkey breast on fresh-baked ciabatta bread with bacon and tomatoes, crunchy baguettes with ham and cheese and perfectly flaky croissants with cheese and salami.

Almar Bakari offers divine bread and pastries for the whole family. “Our bread takes 18-20 hours as they are slow-rising and handmade,” says Lóa, adding that their sourdough bread, Hengill and Hilla, are the most popular. In all, the bakery makes 13 different types of bread.

As for the pastries, customers are tempted with many treats, from Icelandic classics like kleinur and vinarbrauð to doughnuts and cinnabuns. The cakes are exquisite, including carrot, chocolate, and caramel. The bakery is very inclusive as there are several vegan options available.

Family-run business

Almar and Lóa opened their first bakery in Hveragerði in 2009. Since then, they have expanded to two other locations, and their four children and other family

members all work for the business. Almar is a passionate, creative baker and learned his craft in Denmark more than 20 years ago. “The family wants customers to experience beautiful, good food, with friendly service,” says Lóa.

Convenient locations

Almar’s bakeries are situated close to Route 1, which makes them an ideal stop when travelling along the southern part of the ring road. There is good parking at the sites, and the family is ready to welcome you whether you choose to dine in or takeaway to continue your Iceland road trip adventure! -JG



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THE QUEEN, HEKLA

Hekla seen from the Torfajökull area, where it rises up 1491 meters from the highland

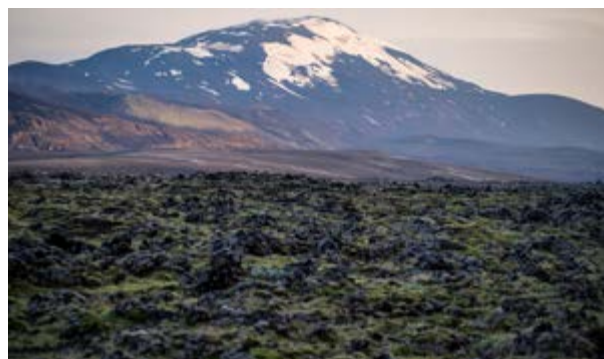
Hekla is the most active and probably the best-known volcano in Iceland. Hekla is a very young volcano, about 7000 years old, on a very active fissure where the southern fracture zone and the southern gas zone meet in the country area of Rangárvallasýsla in the middle of the south. Under the mountain lie large magma chambers and craters, as Hekla has erupted many times since the land was settled, or a total of 18 times in the last 900 years. But the biggest eruptions, truly cataclysmic eruptions, occurred before settlement, 7000, 4500 and 2900 years ago. Hekla last erupted at the turn of the last century, in the year 2000 in a small eruption. The last major eruption in Hekla was in 1947. Since the settlement, Hekla erupted in the years 1104, 1158, 1206, 1222, 1300, 1341, 1389, 1510, 1597, 1636, 1693, 1766, 1845, 1947, 1970, 1980, and 1910. in 2000. According to measurements, scientists predict that Hekla is due to erupt in the near future. It's just a matter of when the queen stirs, and whether it will be a big or a small eruption. Scientists cannot answer that as our nature is very unpredictable.



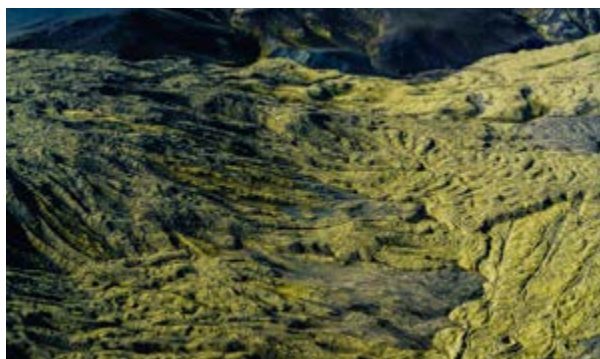
Hekla's peak



Pumís on the slopes of Hekla



Hekla seen from the north-west



Lava fields in the slopes of Hekla



FELDUR
 VERKSTÆÐI

FUR STORE AND WORKSHOP

Find warmth in the heart of Reykjavík

Feldur is a family run fur brand that specializes in the design of high quality fur products. Their flagship store and workshop is located in the heart of Reykjavík where you will find a wide selection of fur products. Inside you can also see the furrier at work, altering and repairing old fur garments giving them a longer life and a new style. "We believe in the quality and durability of fur as a material that can last a lifetime".



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