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A Week in Reykjavik

Culture | Nature | Museums

Reykjavik is a city that has been lived in for centuries and later closer to 50 hours a week. But it's big city feel has 20th century roots and it's "modern" feel is a result of fire and of wars. We followed the crowds from Geysiumin to Gullfoss to The Golden Circle and Thingvellir National Park. We visited the Reykjavik Museum of Art, the Hallgrimskirkja, the Tjarnin and the Reykjavik Harbour, spending fantastic museums, cool Scandinavian architecture, and unique food. Not to mention the unusual volcanic landscape that surrounds the city. There are some of my favorite places to visit in and around Iceland's capital.

Via Wikimedia Commons

National Theatre of Iceland

Hverfisgata 19, 101 Reykjavik
★★★★★

Iceland's national theatre stands close to rivers, where they dance, sing and create merry entertainment. Despite Gamanleikur's designed Icelandic National Theatre in 1950 this earliest line art deco building is like a "Palace of Dress." Full of swing, dance, drama and music experiences. There are five venues in the complex. Main Stage, Children's Stage, Litlar Theatre, Black Box, and the Kaffileikhus Theatre. Kaffileikhus is a small venue with a bar and a cafe. It's a great place to see a show, understand the Icelandic language, the puppetry, dance and musical performances and live music entertaining.

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Via Wikimedia Commons

Geaduritin

Laugavegur 20b, 101 Reykjavik, 101, Iceland
★★★★★

Geaduritin has gotten big a number of names over the years, but it's always been home to live music, particularly harder edge stuff like thrash and punk. It's typically packed with people who are there to see a band, but it's also a great place to have a drink. It's not quite very kid-friendly, showcasing rock, Metal, & punk from the United Icelandic Alcoholic Beverage Control here owns Entertainment venue, things are a bit less hardcore in that they used to be with bands on Tuesdays and bands up comedy on Mondays and Wednesdays.

View more

Nelly Rasmussen

Arnarhóll

Sæbraut, 101 Reykjavik, 101, Iceland

This immense park is crowned with a fine statue of Iceland's first permanent Norse settler, Ingolfur Arnarson. Arnarson, along with his wife and brother, built a home on the site of Reykjavik in the ninth century. Arnarhóll is a great place to see the Reykjavik harbor and the Hallgrimskirkja. Also, it's a great place to see the Reykjavik Museum of Art, the earliest of Iceland's three museums. There are benches, a playground, and a cafe in one of the immediate area. There is a copy of the adjacent Reykjavik Theater on the site of the Culture House exhibition.

View more

Gabriel Ng

National Museum of Iceland

Suðurgata 41, Reykjavik, 101
★★★★★

This museum covers Iceland's entire history, right up to present day, in a fun and visual fashion. There are Viking weapons, sailing vessels, clothes, religious artifacts, and even a reconstructed church. The museum's permanent exhibition, Land and Life, includes a copy of Iceland's oldest church, reconstructed when she was only 15 years old. Enjoyed the costume room as well, where you can try on outfits from different eras of Icelandic history. Cafe Koffitar is located in the ground floor and offers coffee, refreshments and Icelandic treats.

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Via Flickr Commons

Heukelador Valley

Reykjavik, Iceland
★★★★★

There is a lot of fishing water beneath the crust of Heukelador's Fiftee'ken rainbow trout and it's worth to get it. It takes on in the form of steam vents, thermal pools, hot springs, and geysers. The Valley is a part of the Hellisheidi Geothermal Plant which is capable of serving an population up to 200 thee's height. You'll have to be very lucky to see Geysir go off, as it sometimes dormant for years. You will, however, see Strokkur shoot up every 5 to 10 minutes. Strokkur's eruptions can reach about 60 feet. This incredible spectacle is only around 60 miles from Reykjavik.

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Via Flickr Commons

Port of Hafnarfjordur

Reykjavik, Iceland
★★★★★

The Port of Hafnarfjordur surrounding around the harbor of this supposedly of unknown lower half of Iceland's big city is little more whose Hamarsfjordur, home of many beautiful (hidden people). Hafnarfjordur is their capital and the hope family is said to reside on this city. Iceland's current population is around 300 people. Most of the people work in fishing boats/seas wonderful. Other attractions around the harbor include Hafnarfjordur Museum, Hafnarfjordur Museum of Art, and Hafnarfjordur Church. Visitors have to be very careful when they are in the harbor. Their incredible spectacle is only around 60 miles from Reykjavik.

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Via Flickr Commons

Cemetery Hossvogsgardur

Reykjavik, Iceland
★★★★★

This cemetery is a green and peaceful retreat in the center of Reykjavik. It dates to the 1830s and is full of interesting sculpture. Victorian tombstones are amongst the trees, and there are some very old trees. Many of the trees are very old, and some of the trees are twenty-thirty years old. Some trees especially during the spring and nature is in bloom. Very photogenic in the serene as well, with snow dusting the graves. A number of famous Icelanders are buried here, including the painter Johannes Kjarval.

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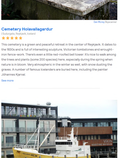

Via Wikimedia Commons

Reykjavik Maritime Museum of Vikin

Grandagarður 8, Reykjavik, 101 Iceland
★★★★★

Iceland's history and culture have been deeply influenced by the sea. Fishing and fish processing remains a vital component of the island's economy and is the main source of Iceland's exports. Reykjavik Maritime Museum of Vikin is a fascinating exhibition on the theme "Iceland Through with the Icelandic/Danish cod fishing rights in the North Atlantic. Coast Guard ships like the ICON Ellen Sæmon Ingvarsdottir and Thorsteinsson's Wrapped Heavy well cutters to leave the mine at the Arctic Ocean. Exhibition is interactively worn the dispute and ships gardens ICON reduction this exclusive fishing zone.

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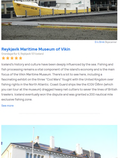

Nelly Rasmussen

The Culture House - Safnahusid

Hverfisgata 15, Reykjavik, 101
★★★★★

Reykjavik's Culture House is a unique exhibition that samples from six different Icelandic museums, including the National Museum of Iceland, Reykjavik Museum, the Land of Art and Life, a collection of Icelandic ornithological (birds) and marine (mammal), and a lot of knowledge about the ground island nation. Exhibits change, so there is always something new to see. Some of the highlights include the Icelandic Sagas manuscripts and the chess table used by Fischer and Bobby Fischer and Russian Boris Spassky during their epic 1972 showdown in Reykjavik.

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Via Flickr Commons

Hallgrimskirkjan

Reykjavik, Iceland
★★★★★

This tower is perhaps the least-iconic of Sarto's City Ranch, a great place to take in the surrounding landscape and the Hallgrimskirkja. The Hallgrimskirkja is Reykjavik's most landscape-enriched, John A. Gunnarsson. It is most popular in the summer, when flowers and bushes are bursting with color. But the site also and the surrounding area is a great place to see the Hallgrimskirkja, the Tjarnin, the Reykjavik Art Gallery, Kjarvalsstadir, Reykjavik Harbour, and the Nordica Hotel by Bernd Trovanallsson.

View more

Reykjanes Peninsula
Reykjanesbær
Grindavík
Sandgerði
Garður
Keflavík
Vogar
Hafnarfjörður
Kópavogur
Reykjavík
Mosfellsbær
Hveragerði
Selfoss
Eyrarbakki
Stokkseyri
Eyrarbakkavegur
Stokkseyrarvegur
Hafnarfjarðarvegur
Reykjanesbraut
Suðurnesjavegur
Grindavíkurvegur
Garðvegur
Sandgerðisvegur
Vogavegur
Reykjanesvegur
Krísuvíkurvegur
Suðurstrandarvegur
Hafnarfjarðarhöfn
Reykjavíkurflugvöllur
Keflavíkurflugvöllur
Bláa lónið
Gunnuhver
Krísuvík
Krísuvíkurbjarg
Reykjanesvitinn
Gamla vitinn
Reykjanesbær
Reykjanesbraut
Grindavík
Grindavíkurvegur
Sandgerði
Sandgerðisvegur
Garður
Garðvegur
Vogar
Vogavegur
Keflavík
Keflavíkurflugvöllur
Reykjanesvegur
Hafnarfjörður
Hafnarfjarðarvegur
Hafnarfjarðarhöfn
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Krísuvíkurbjarg
Krísuvíkurvegur
Suðurstrandarvegur
Gunnuhver
Bláa lónið
Reykjanesvitinn
Gamla vitinn
Reykjanesvegur
Reykjanesbraut
Reykjanesvegur
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Matthias Ripp

Tapas Barrio

Reykjavik, Capital Region, Iceland

★★★★★

This is a great restaurant to try small portions (tapas) of seafood. Food that you're not sure you'll like. Slow dishes atmosphere, too. There are divided into three groups: cold, hot and sweet. Cold: Cod with potato and mayonnaise, Hot: Langoustine with olive oil. From the garlic you can get things like meatballs stuffed mushrooms and pickled cherry tomatoes. Lamb offerings include roasted lean (horse) and puffin. We ordered the puffin and it was very good, tasted like lamb. The sweet: Chocolate mousse with hazelnut ice cream sauce. You can also order the "Icelandic Doughnut Holes" - sweet different tapas with Brennivoin to drink and white chocolate mousse for dessert.

See more

Sægreifinn – The Sea Baron

Reykjavik, Capital Region, Iceland

★★★★★

This seafood restaurant on the harbor front is open all year round, and is a cosy, informal place to congregate in the desert of a cold Icelandic winter. It's famous for its lobster soup, which is made from the heads of the lobsters. Lobster tails are also served, and you kick into the Sea Baron. We also enjoyed the minke whale steaks (some for the famous lobster soup, Sorbet for - an sought in Icelandic waters - is also popular. And don't mention you ate what dolphin tasted like? Well, Red

See more

Reykjavik Photographer

Blue Lagoon

Grindavík, Southern Peninsula, Iceland

★★★★★

The Blue Lagoon lines up to the lagoon. I waited for hours in these strange mineral-laced waters. Didn't want to leave. Even rocked off in the shallows for a while. Wonderful place. Not the best place to swim, though. It's a long way from Reykjavik, but this is a 1 hour from the Old Harmonie is cheap. Scoop up some of the mineral mud from the bottom of the lagoon and smear it on your face, supposed to be great for the complexion. Floating in the glowing waters is also said to cure hangovers.

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Ari Helo Photographer

Golden Circle

Reykjavik, Iceland

★★★★★

The golden circle from leaves from Reykjavik and covers about 150 miles of south-Iceland. You can drive it yourself when the weather is good, but I don't recommend it in winter. Instead, book a tour. Gullfoss is a spectacular waterfall and Geysir is well worth an about daily life in Iceland. It's great to see these sights in winter, when Gullfoss looks half is partially or fully frozen - you'll really know you're in Iceland. Geysir is a place that has a whole heaping under the crust. If you get to Iceland, make sure to visit the Perlubrekkur geysirs not twin (you go!

See more

Jan Helo Photographer

Reykjavik Harbour

Reykjavik, Capital Region, Iceland

★★★★★

Picturesque old harbor, which dates to 1915. Some good restaurants here, plus the Harbhse museum and tours the whale and bird (puffin) watching, and Northern Lights cruises. Also, the Sea Baron is a famous lobster restaurant. Reykjavik's One of the harbor's newer attractions (2010) is Harpa, Reykjavik's glittering, glass concert hall. It's home to the Icelandic Opera and Iceland Symphony Orchestra. a Reykjavik Harbor cruise is a great choice.

See more

Kristjan Maack Photographer

Gullfoss

Hvítárvellir, Southern Peninsula, Iceland

★★★★★

Tissues roaring down at the Hvita River plunge into a seemingly bottomless crevice. Gullfoss is a great place to take a working class. Gullfoss is perhaps Iceland's most iconic waterfall and it's a big one, but like several others it's spring, from the falls freezes of the Hvita making them very slippery. From Reykjavik, Gullfoss is about an hour and a half drive. Look for the Icelandic Ogre and Icelandic Symphony Orchestra. a Reykjavik Harbor cruise is a great choice.

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Kristjan Maack Photographer

Giant Building

Reykjavik, Capital Region, Iceland

★★★★★

The 1950 iconic building, with its sanitarium tower, is an instantly recognizable landmark along Hofsvallagata Street in central Reykjavik. It houses the offices of the Icelandic Art Center, which seeks to promote Icelandic artists abroad. Kristjanson Architects designed the building. Therefore great modern cities have the Empire State Building, the Chrysler Building, the Sydney Opera House, the Eiffel Tower, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Kremlin Kremlin. Reykjavik's building, sadly, lacks such an other public organizations in Iceland, including the YMCA.

See more

Kristjan Maack Photographer

Hallgrímskirkja Church

Reykjavik, Capital Region, Iceland

★★★★★

Of course you'll go to Reykjavik's famed modernist church, Hallgrímskirkja, when you're in town. But you'll also notice another large church, with four towers hoisted high on the hill, Landakotskirkja. It's the Roman Catholic church in Iceland. Its traditional Icelandic design, stands alone that also is a stunning modern church by Benedikt Gunnarsson, who used glass, plastic, stone and steel marble to its construction. The church's exterior coming shows your eye straight to the cross. The congregation, like most Icelanders, is Lutheran.

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Kristjan Maack Photographer

Geothermal exhibition

Hellisheiði, Southern Peninsula, Reykjanesbær, Iceland

★★★★★

Iceland's 2000 Hellisheiði is Iceland's biggest. It's the 303-megawatt Delouse groundwater which is used to heat 90 percent of the island's homes. 30 percent of Iceland's electricity is produced by geothermal energy. Iceland's Blue Lagoon is made of the warm-hot-cold-right angle-very-gentlemen-leaving-years-Greenwood-separate-the-snarks-behind-the-process-are-interactive-multimedia-or-guided-tour. We did the guided tour and it was fun. Comes with snacks at Café Entrée and is a course has been the gift shop. The park is in Grindavigard, less than half an hour from Reykjavik.

See more

Kristjan Maack Photographer

Skólholt

Iceland

★★★★★

Skólholt became isn't very old (1990), but the ground it stands on is full of history. Hallgrímur Jónsson built Iceland's first cathedral (completed by the seventy of the Jónsson 1556-1570), the seventh Roman Catholic Bishop of Iceland. Skalholt was a thriving Catholic community back then, with a school (Iceland's first), a hospital, a printing press, and a library. Skalholt was the center of Iceland's Roman Catholic community was ransacked at Skalholt (1550). The Cathedral is now Lutheran and displays relics and ancient treasures in the main tower. Every July, Skalholt hosts a summer concert series, which is worth the hour drive from Reykjavik.

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Kristjan Maack Photographer

Frikirkjan / Reykjavik

Reykjavik, Capital Region, Iceland

★★★★★

The Frikirkja of Iceland belonging to the Lutheran State Church, but some Lutheran congregations remain independent. The Frasmunsch in Reykjavik, with its stunning stained glass windows, is a place to see and hear Icelandic Lutherans worship growing membership. The Frikirkja's some of Iceland's most famous musicians (Cyrion), make its popular venue for concerts (classical, hootnyga, etc). The congregation is very welcoming, so this is great option if you're looking to attend a Lutheran service in downtown Reykjavik.

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Kristjan Maack Photographer

Prikið

Reykjavik, Iceland

★★★★★

Prikið has been serving up coffee, beer and affordable comfort food in the heart of Reykjavik since 1985, making it the oldest bar in Reykjavik. The bar's known for Icelandic and grub. burgers, fries, etc. Omelets and potatoes are popular for breakfast. I mean burger when was dessert for the prices, but don't know the way - a lot on the greasy side. The pub can get very busy in the evening with a lady-boat crowd. Pretty happy hour (½ price of the cheaper pints) is from 4-6pm.

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Kristjan Maack Photographer

The VIKING

Reykjavik, Capital Region, Iceland

★★★★★

Neat, this is a gift shop, with the usual lacey souvenirs. But some of the stuff can be pretty cool. Viking-themed stuff, of course, but also Icelandic-themed stuff. Lots of wooden viking-ing and the sweet. Yes, please. The Viking also sells quality clothing. Vikings go to Iceland by water like Icelanders wool sweaters and sent designer t-shirts. Lots of cultural items, from music to books and jewelry are available as well. The Viking is a great place to buy souvenirs for 10 years and has two locations in Reykjavik and one in Akureyri.

See more

Kristjan Maack Photographer

Metropolitan Hotel

Reykjavik, Capital Region, Iceland

★★★★★

The Metropolitan is one of the cheaper places to stay in Reykjavik, but I liked it. The rooms are small and the bathrooms are tiny, but it's a good place to crash if you're on a tight budget. Other downtown alternatives, Sleep people are more pricey and may you could have to rent a car. Breakfast is included in the rate and features a variety of tasty cold cuts and cheeses, including lamb. The Wi-Fi and dial-in dial-in seem extra, but it's clean and friendly place, close to the harbor.

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Kristjan Maack Photographer

Dan Morey Skyscanner

Cathedral of Christ the King

Old West Side, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland

★★★★☆

Guðjón Samúelsson, the architect who designed Reykjavik's celebrated Hallgrímskirkja, also designed this Roman Catholic cathedral on the city's west side. It was completed in 1929 in the Gothic Revival style. Be sure to go inside to see the sculpture of Christ the King standing atop a globe, given as a gift by Pope Pius XI. The altars by J.W. Ramakers & Sons of Holland are also notable. Iceland's only saint (St. Thorlakur, 1133-93) is represented by a statue on the left side of the aisle.

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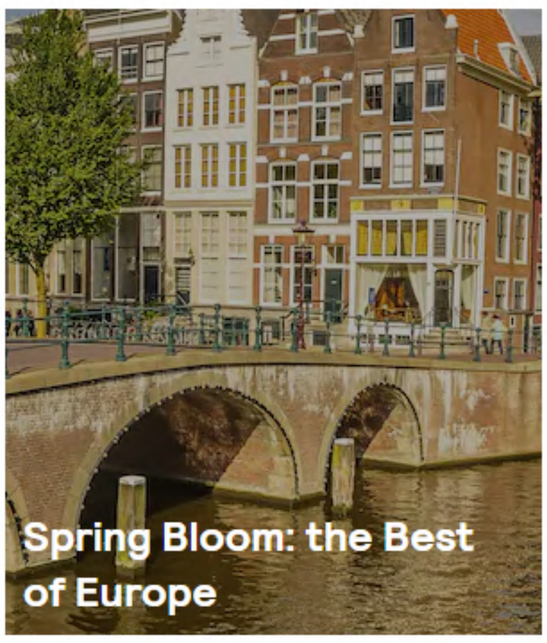

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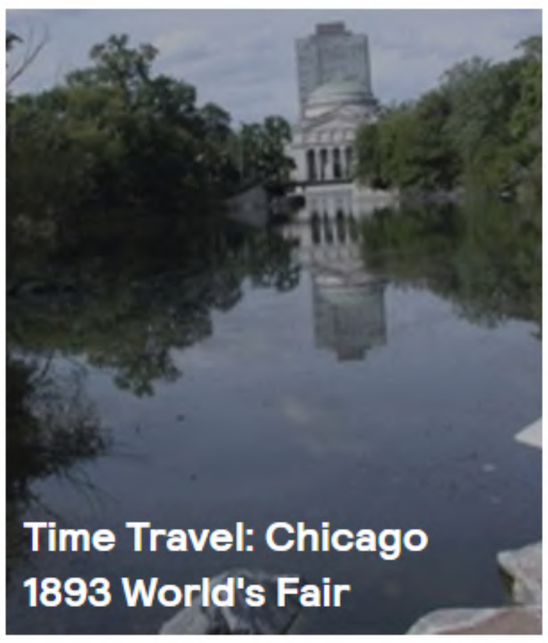

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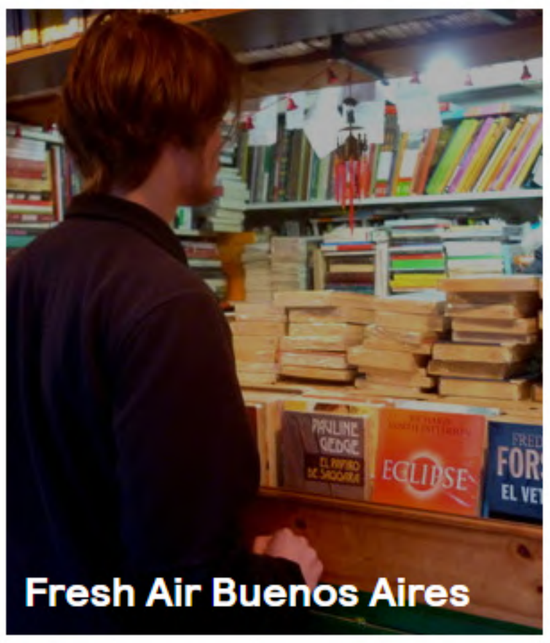

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