



Issue 05

2020

www.gpv.is

# REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

## Eurovision

**Culture:** The ultimate verdict on Will Ferrell's opus

## Pulsing With Lust

**Books:** World-famous erotica author Rebecca Scott Lord

## More Hiking!

**Travel:** 7 trails in 7 days for total body extermination

## Volcano Science

**Interview:** Figuring out when the big one is coming

+ GIG GUIDE × CITY MAP × TRAVEL IDEAS × FOOD

# Discovering the Laugavegur Trail

A heroic tale of snow, steam and sunburns on Iceland's most famous trail





COVER PHOTO:  
Art Bionick

# First



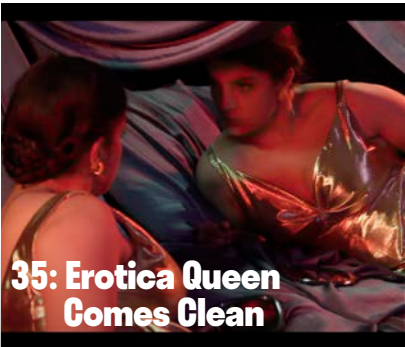
15: Pride: The Proudest Day Of The Year

10: Stop Saying Skonsur Are Just American Pancakes Already



16: Skoffin Will Charm Your Socks Off

24: ...And So Will Dymbrá  
26: Female Heroes Of Folk Tales In Art



35: Erotica Queen Comes Clean

33: Embla Is The Fanciest  
38: Foreign Food Shops Broaden Horizons



## EDITORIAL

# Queering The Chaos!

Pride Month may be in June for some parts of the world, but in Iceland—as in much of Scandinavia—it's in August. Being Americans by birth, and both being queer living in Iceland, this month carries special meaning for us, especially as we look westward to our birth country with despair and anxiety.

### Andie's trans agenda

In the United States, the Trump administration is currently doing seemingly everything it can to erase trans people and further marginalise them. The murder of trans people, in particular Black trans women, continues in the US seemingly unabated. Meanwhile, in the UK, author J.K. Rowling drops

the mask, “coming out” as a full-blown transphobe and emboldening bigots, as she uses her massive platform to legitimise hate.

It is for this reason that some of us trans people who move to Iceland, can feel a sense of survivor's guilt, living in a country that is comparatively tolerant and progressive. So this Pride, we will not only fight for further progress here at home, but better days for our trans siblings in the US.

### Hannah's radical manifesto

It's a bizarre experience to watch your homeland burn—and quite literally at that—while you sit pretty, outside, mask-less, in a country with a compar-

atively supreme standard of living.

In truth, these past few months have presented both the best and worst of humanity. On one hand, we saw the largest worldwide protest of all time demanding rights and respect for Black people. On the other hand, regressive extremists have only grown more extreme and now appear to feel no shame about presenting their harmful views publicly.

In Iceland, I believe the most targeted group of hatred and bigotry are immigrants, particularly those of colour. This Pride, I hope queer Icelanders do their best to make queer immigrants feel welcome in the wider LGBTQ+ community. I'm tired of seeing those from far away countries who moved here for a better life be left out of not only politics, cultural life and media representation, but also the marginalised groups you'd expect would support them. We need to do better.

But I believe in the resilience and love of the queer community and I'm optimistic about the future. But if not, isn't it exciting to watch the end of mankind?

With love,  
**Andie Sophia Fontaine & Hannah Jane Cohen**  
*Goddesses & editors at the Reykjavík Grapevine* 🍷



**Elin Elisabet** is an illustrator and cartoonist born and raised in Borgarnes. At the tender age of 15, Elin moved to Reykjavík and hasn't looked back, except for the annual springtime impulse to move someplace quiet and keep chickens. Elin likes folk music, stationery, seal videos, the country of Ireland, and eggs.



**Hannah Jane Cohen** is based out of Iceland by way of New York. She's known for her love of Willa Ford, David Foster Wallace, and other such "intellectuals." Her visionary work is known for expanding the definitions of emotion, introspection, and above all else, taste. Hannah is also the current Drag King of Iceland, Hans.



**Catherine Magnúsdóttir** studies social sciences and came to the Grapevine for the internship her studies mandate. And for fun of course. When she's not reconnecting with her Icelandic roots, she's either watching video essays or attempting to finally come up with a good story idea that she can actually finish writing.



**Nico Borbely** is an American-Italian language and geography nerd from Michigan and Viadana, Lombardy with stints in several other countries. He can usually be found brewing espresso, hoarding books, singing along to multilingual Disney videos, or cooking experimental noodle dishes.



**Sveinbjörn Pálsson** is our Art Director. He's responsible for the design of the magazine and the cover photography. When he's not working here, he DJs as Terrordisco, hosts the Funkpátturinn radio show, or sits at a table in a Laugardalur café, drinking copious amounts of coffee and thinking about fonts.



**Samuel O'Donnell** Sam is an English major from The United States. He has his Bachelor's Degree, and keeps telling himself that this is the year he will begin pursuing his Master's. In his spare time, he enjoys playing video games, writing short horror stories, listening to all kinds of metal, and reading.



**Andie Sophia Fontaine** has lived in Iceland since 1999 and has been reporting since 2003. They were the first foreign-born member of the Icelandic Parliament, an experience they recommend for anyone who wants to experience a workplace where colleagues work tirelessly to undermine each other.



**Poppy Askham** is a languages student, fledgling writer, and lover of flared jeans who has fled to Iceland in a desperate bid to escape Boris' Brexit Britain whilst she still can. Looking for a new adventure, she's swapped her hometown Bath with its crowds of tourists and famous hot springs for... Reykjavík.



**Valur Grettiðsson** is an award-winning journalist, author and playwright. He has been writing for Icelandic media since 2005. He was also a theatre critic and one of the hosts of the cultural program, 'Djöflaeyjan' at RÚV. Valur is not to be confused with the dreadful football club that bears the same name.

# Volcano & Earthquake Exhibition

Photo: Eyjafjallajökull Eruption 2010

LAVA Centre is an awarded, interactive exhibition on Icelandic volcanoes and earthquakes. Learn about the most active Icelandic volcanoes and see all the latest eruptions in 4K. Lava Centre is a mandatory stop on your Golden Circle or South Coast adventure.

Located in Hvolsvöllur  
80 min drive from Reykjavík

More info and tickets  
lavacentre.is

Open every day  
9:00 - 19:00





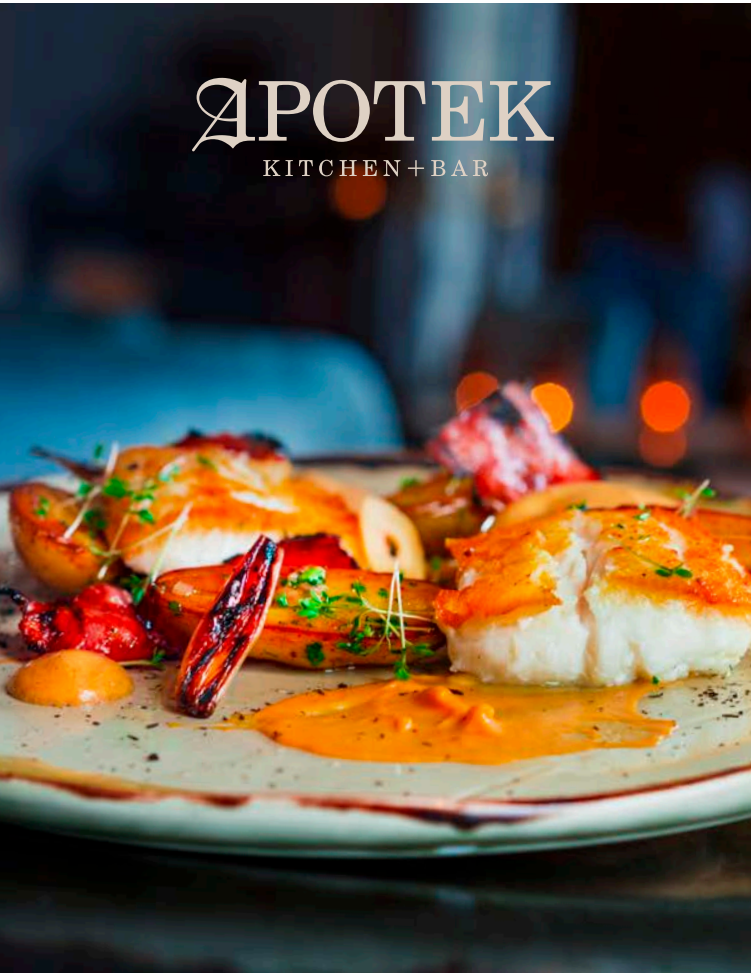
# THE NATURAL CHOICE

**ICELANDIC LAMB – BEYOND COMPARE**

True to our tradition of 1,100 years, pure-bred Icelandic Lamb grazes freely, acquiring delicate seasonings of berries and herbs. Its premium quality, texture, and delicious flavour make it the natural choice of leading chefs. Look for the Icelandic Lamb Shield, a guarantee of excellence awarded to Icelandic restaurants.

[www.icelandiclamb.is](http://www.icelandiclamb.is)





APOTEK  
KITCHEN+BAR

# THE HOME OF ICELANDIC SEAFOOD AND LAMB

APOTEK Kitchen+Bar is a casual-smart restaurant located in one of Reykjavík's most historical buildings. We specialize in fresh seafood and local ingredients prepared with a modern twist.

APOTEK KITCHEN+BAR // Austurstræti 16 // 101 Reykjavík // apotek.is



If they don't rep us in 2021 Eurovision we're never watching a Will Ferrell movie again

## What Are Icelanders Talking About?

News and views in the Icelandic discourse

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine** Photos: **Adobe Stock & Netflix**

**NEWS** July 1st came and went, and while **Iceland is now open to a select few non-Schengen countries**, the US is not amongst them. This puts Iceland in the company of most countries in the world, who have **declined to accept American passport holders** for the time being. While this news surprised pretty much no one, what did come out of left field with **deCODE Genetics** CEO Kári Stefánsson announcing that his company would **stop participating in border testing**, effective July 21st. His reasons basically boil down to what he considers a lack of clear communication between the government and his company, and a lack of any particular endgame. Government and health authorities are optimistic that they can still conduct border testing smoothly, so we'll see how that goes.

A **fire that tore through a West Reykjavík house**, killing three and injuring several others became a flashpoint on the topic of **exploitation of foreign workers** in Iceland after it was brought to light that all of the residents of that house were foreign workers, paying exorbitant rents to live in deplorable conditions in a building that had been reported on several occasions for being essentially a slum. Members

of the immigrant community organised a demonstration calling upon the government to take greater action to ensure the safety and wellbeing of foreign workers, and union officials joined in that call. The government, however, has been disappointingly silent, with Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir deciding to tweet about a football match on the day of the tragedy,

Icelandic press—particularly the BBC—has been offended on behalf of the Icelandic people for the movie's depiction of Icelanders, Icelanders themselves seem to absolutely love the flick. Even diehard fans of Eurovision in Iceland have embraced the film as a campy romp that accurately portrays both Eurovision fever and some aspects of Icelandic culture. Which is pretty interesting, considering that not too long ago, we would get super mad if any media portrayed Icelanders as anything other than gorgeous, physically powerful geniuses. Perhaps we've finally learned to take ourselves less seriously.

Finally, Iceland held presidential elections in June. Incumbent President **Guðni Th. Jóhannesson won** handily, securing over 90% of the



Iceland Daddy Guðni Th, having just chokeslammed his opponent at the polls

and has at the time of this writing yet to mention a word about it.

In lighter news, the Netflix movie "Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga" has been met with mixed reviews. And by that we mean that while the non-

vote and soundly defeating Trump supporter Guðmundur Franklín for the office. Literally no one was surprised. So that was fun. 🇮🇸



Published by  
Fröken ehf.  
Hafnarstræti 15,  
101 Reykjavík  
[www.grapevine.is](http://www.grapevine.is)  
[grapevine@grapevine.is](mailto:grapevine@grapevine.is)

Member of the  
Icelandic Travel  
Industry Association  
[www.saf.is](http://www.saf.is)

Printed by Landsprent  
ehf. in 20,000 copies.

**PUBLISHER**  
Hilmar Steinn  
Grétarsson  
[hilmar@grapevine.is](mailto:hilmar@grapevine.is)  
+354 540 3601  
[publisher@grapevine.is](mailto:publisher@grapevine.is)

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Valur Grettisson  
[valur@grapevine.is](mailto:valur@grapevine.is)

**ART DIRECTOR**  
Sveinbjörn Pálsson  
[sveinbjorn@grapevine.is](mailto:sveinbjorn@grapevine.is)

**NEWS EDITOR**  
Andie Sophia Fontaine  
[andie@grapevine.is](mailto:andie@grapevine.is)

**CULTURE EDITOR**  
Hannah Jane Cohen  
[hannah@grapevine.is](mailto:hannah@grapevine.is)

**PHOTO EDITOR**  
Art Bionick  
[art@grapevine.is](mailto:art@grapevine.is)

**WEB EDITOR**  
Andie Sophia Fontaine  
[andie@grapevine.is](mailto:andie@grapevine.is)

**LISTINGS DIRECTOR**  
Hannah Jane Cohen  
[listings@grapevine.is](mailto:listings@grapevine.is)

**COPY EDITOR**  
Catharine Fulton

**ILLUSTRATIONS**  
Elin Elisabet

**INTERN**  
Catherine  
Magnúsdóttir  
[catherine@grapevine.is](mailto:catherine@grapevine.is)  
Sam O'Donnell  
[samuel@grapevine.is](mailto:samuel@grapevine.is)  
Poppy Askham  
[poppy@grapevine.is](mailto:poppy@grapevine.is)  
Nico Borbely  
[nico@grapevine.is](mailto:nico@grapevine.is)

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
Anna Andersen

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
POND Creative  
Adam Halaka  
Natsha Nandabhiwat

**SALES DIRECTORS**  
Aðalsteinn  
Jörundsson  
[adalsteinn@grapevine.is](mailto:adalsteinn@grapevine.is)  
Helgi Þór Harðarson  
[helgi@grapevine.is](mailto:helgi@grapevine.is)

**CONTACT US:**  
—> **Editorial**  
+354 540 3600  
[editor@grapevine.is](mailto:editor@grapevine.is)  
—> **Advertising**  
354 540 3605  
[ads@grapevine.is](mailto:ads@grapevine.is)  
—> **Distribution**  
8 Subscriptions  
+354 540 3604  
[distribution@grapevine.is](mailto:distribution@grapevine.is)  
—> **Press releases**  
[listings@grapevine.is](mailto:listings@grapevine.is)  
—> **General Inquiries**  
[grapevine@grapevine.is](mailto:grapevine@grapevine.is)

**FOUNDERS**  
Hilmar Steinn  
Grétarsson,  
Hörður Kristbjörnsson,  
Jón Trausti  
Sigurðarson,  
Oddur Óskar  
Kjartansson,  
Valur Gunnarsson

The Reykjavík  
Grapevine is  
published 21 times  
a year by Fröken  
Ltd. Monthly from  
December through  
February, and  
fortnightly from  
March til October.  
Nothing in this  
magazine may be  
reproduced in whole  
or in part without the  
written permission  
of the publishers. The  
Reykjavík Grapevine  
is distributed  
around Reykjavík,  
Akureyri, Egilsstaðir,

Seyðisfjörður,  
Borgarnes, Keflavík,  
Ísafjörður and  
at key locations  
along road #1, and  
all major tourist  
attractions and  
tourist information  
centres in the  
country. You may not  
like it, but at least  
it's not sponsored  
(no articles in the  
Reykjavík Grapevine  
are pay-for articles.  
The opinions  
expressed are the  
writers' own, not the  
advertisers').





# A CENTURY OF BREAKING BREAD

Sandholt is a homegrown family bakery built upon decades of tradition and priding four generations of innovative, artisan bakers.

Our mission since opening our bakery in 1920, has been to perfect the art of a lovingly crafted loaf of bread. Everything is baked by hand with fresh, natural ingredients. Our famed scrumptious pastries are variable by the season and are made with fresh homemade fillings. We are ordinary people striving to create an extraordinary delicacy.

Come by our time-honoured bakery for intensely delicious baked goods, a savory brunch or one of our homemade sodas or craft beers. Find us in the heart of Reykjavík, every morning from seven-thirty AM.

EST. 1920

SANDHOLT  
REYKJAVÍK





Protests before Alþingi

# After The Fire

We can do more to protect immigrants. When will we?

NEWS

Words:  
Andie Sophia  
Fontaine

Photo:  
Poppy Askham

On June 25th, a house fire at Bræðrabor-garstígur 1 killed three people and injured numerous others. The house had been reported on several times before for its dilapidated and unsani-tary living conditions. When a clearer picture emerged of how people were living there—exorbitant rent for a single room, dozens sharing a single kitchen and bathroom, and landlord reportedly unwilling to improve condi-tions—many people in the immigrant community were unsurprised.

Do immigrant lives matter?

Hours after news of the fire broke, Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir

chose to tweet about the results of a football match. She has, at the time of this writing, yet to say a single word about the tragedy. She did, though, recently attend a memorial for a fire at Þingvellir that claimed Icelandic lives and took place decades ago. In fact, city and state leaders have spent more time pointing the finger at one another than they have in shouldering any responsi-bility at all.

Where are the candles?

Another thing that immigrants in Iceland were quick to point out is how the story was reported on. Tradition-ally, when someone dies in Iceland,

media outlets will use a tasteful photo of a candle, or several candles, to mark the event. This is done out of respect for the loved ones of the deceased. This was not the case in this event, as many media outlets chose instead to use banner images of the grizzly aftermath of the blaze.

What will change?

While members of Parliament's and Reykjavík city council's opposition parties have at least offered cursory statements that more needs to be done to ensure the safety and wellbeing of immigrant workers, the parties in power at the state and municipal levels have been silent. Iceland's immigrant community can hardly be blamed if they feel their lives matter less than those of Icelanders.

FOOD OF ICELAND

Skonsur

The word “skonsa” (the singular form of skonsur) may remind you of the English word “scone”, but that’s where the similari-ties end. They’re more like Ameri-can pancakes. In fact, a side by side comparison of skonsa and pancake recipes indicates that there is funda-mentally no differ-ence between the two. In practice, however, the foods

have some major differences. While American pancakes are served hot off the griddle, slathered in butter and drowned in maple syrup (some even put peanut but-ter and jelly on them), skonsur are served cold with butter and cheese. When made from scratch, they are prepared as an afterthought, an attempt to get rid of expiring ingre-

dients. Most often, though, they are bought pre-pack-aged in stores, usually stocked next to packs of flatkaka. Besides butter and cheese, non-traditionalists may also eat them with honey, peanut butter and jelly, or even butter and syrup, although at that point they’re really just pan-cakes. Whatever you put on them, these tasty pastries will

keep even the most intrepid hik-er going for hours. Although we have nothing to base this on, we think that J.R.R. Tolkien used skonsur as the inspiration for Lembas Bread, which makes sense. They’re fill-ing, full of energy and nutrients, and keep sweet for days if unbroken and left in their wrappings as you bought them. SOD



ASK A  
Scientist  
Q: How Do You Know  
When A Volcano Will  
Erupt?



Volcanoes! Everyone loves volcano news, but living close to one when it erupts, not so much. That's why Iceland has a team of scientists who dedicate their lives to monitor-ing their activity and letting Civic Protection know when one of them looks ready to erupt. But given how notoriously unpredictable volcanoes are, how exactly do they do that? We asked Baldur Bergsson, a specialist in monitoring at the Icelandic Met Office, how experts know when a vol-cano is ready to pop.

"There's no way you can say 'oh, this volcano will erupt in two years' or whatever," Baldur says. "What we're focusing on is what happens just be-fore an eruption. This could be may-be a month before or, in the case of Hekla, hours before. Each volcano is different. We try to define what hap-pens before an eruption, and a lot of our knowledge comes from past eruptions, document that, and adjust our monitoring techniques for each individual volcano. Of course, this is really difficult when it comes to vol-canoes that might erupt every 100 or 200 years. In those cases, we just have to go with how things generally work. But for a volcano that erupts more frequently, like Grímsvötn or Hekla, we have a pretty good idea of how things escalate."

You can read the full interview with Baldur, and our adventures tag-ging along as he measures possible volcanic activity at a couple of sites, on Page 36.

Get Grapevine Merch!



shop.grapevine.is  
shop.grapevine.is  
shop.grapevine.is  
shop.grapevine.is  
shop.grapevine.is\*

Don't Hesitate!  
Act Now!



\*You only need to type the URL in once





# THIS IS IT

WELCOME  
2020

## WHALE WATCHING • HÚSAVÍK • ICELAND



“Fabulous tour,  
operated by  
fantastically  
enthusiastic staff”



“Absolutely the best  
Whale watching  
experience in  
Iceland”



“Thanks for the  
pleasure of being  
your passenger!”

HÚSAVÍK  
the  
WHALE CAPITAL  
of  
ICELAND

## Húsavík – Heimabærin minn

Get **20% DISCOUNT** with **GRAPE20** Promo Code when you book online at [gentlegiants.is](http://gentlegiants.is)



“Great adventure  
with the rib. Seeing  
so much beautiful  
animals”



“Amazing experience!  
more than expected!”



“Best whale  
watching  
experience from  
the Safari tour!”

## THE ORIGINALS



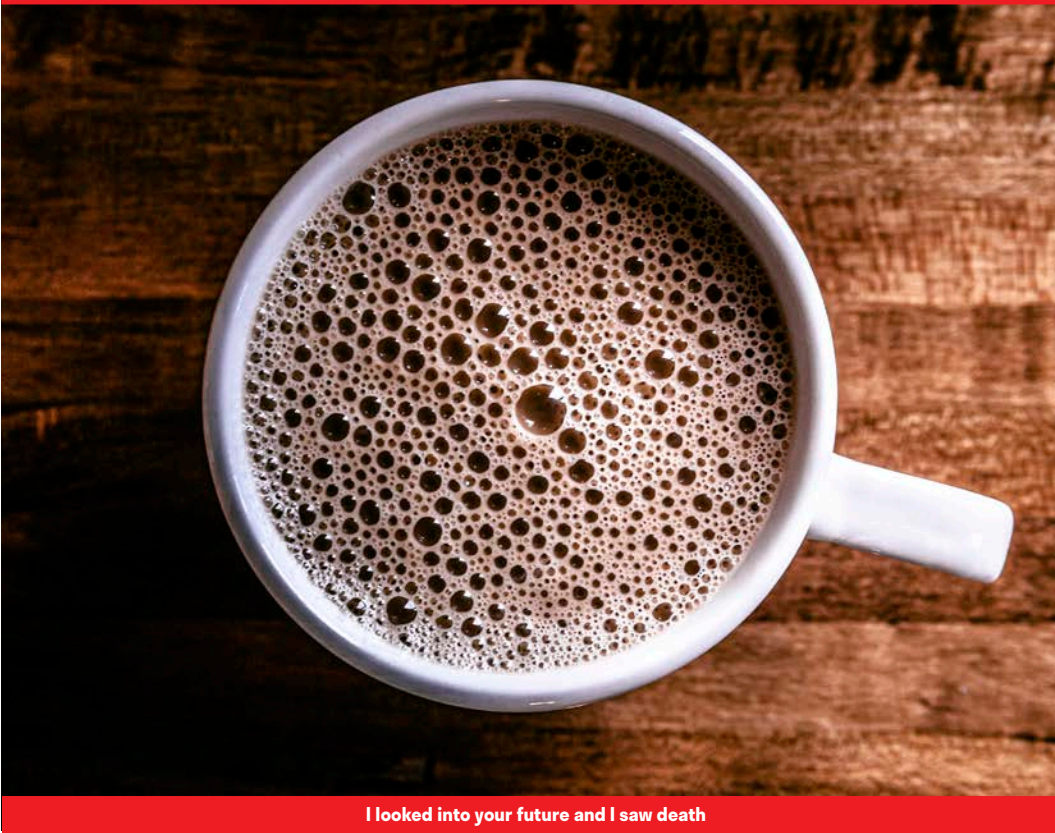
150 YEARS OF FAMILY HISTORY IN THE BAY

[www.gentlegiants.is](http://www.gentlegiants.is) • [info@gentlegiants.is](mailto:info@gentlegiants.is) • Tel. +354 464 1500

MEMBER OF ICEWHALE – THE ICELANDIC WHALE WATCHING ASSOCIATION







I looked into your future and I saw death

by the iced coffee lobby, but we can't legally confirm any cofferuption was involved.

It's also essential to put in sugar before cream or you will not get married for the next seven years. As well, if you happen to find two spoons in your cup, you could be expecting twins in the next year, secretly engaged or just invited to a party. A mismatched cup and saucer indicates that you'll get married twice, or have an affair.

The best situation? Pray that your coffee has bubbles in it. Sipping them means you'll get super rich.

Ground-hog day

It's also what's inside the cup that matters.

"Tasseography" is a form of divination that interprets patterns in tea leaves, wine sediments or coffee grounds. While tea-reading never gained much popularity in Iceland—potentially due to accessibility—coffee clairvoyance was all the rage. But given that a lot of Icelandic superstitions, particularly coffee-cup readings, tended to predetermine someone's death or other bad news, the practice has since fallen out of fashion.

The Grapevine's witchcraft department couldn't find any Iceland-specific coffee ground omens—curiously, they've all disappeared from the internet—but they did determine that if you see a vegvisir in the bottom of your mug, you're probably a basic bitch.

So, enjoy your déjà brew. And regardless of whatever omens you find, be nice to your waiter. ☘

For Whom the Bean Tolls

Rage against the espresso machine!

Get roasted

Words:  
**Catherine  
Magnúsdóttir**  
Photo:  
**Adobe Stock**

When you can't rely on the sun to tell you when to wake up, coffee becomes a necessity. According to Icelandic lore, your latté can even determine how your future plays out.

It was said by the old Icelanders that drinking hot coffee would make you uglier, while drinking it chilly supposedly made you prettier. This, of course, feels like a marketing ploy

JUST SAYINGS



„Engum flýgur  
sofanda steikt  
gæs í munn“

“No goose flies into your mouth already roasted” sounds like a fairly obvious observation to make. Geese are mean, vicious creatures with teeth on their tongues who will chase you at the slightest provocation. But the actual meaning of this phrase is that you can't expect to get the things you want just because you want them; you have to earn them. Let that be a lesson to you, goose-lovers. Your goose is cooked... but you have to kill and cook it first. **ASF** ☘

COMIC



GRAPEVINE  
PLAYLIST



**KÚTKAST - SUPERPOSITION**  
Here is a nice bit of ambient music, set to a very strange video. What's happening? Some kind of dream sequence set in the cold war? I've watched it three times and I still don't know, but I want to watch it again. **SPD**



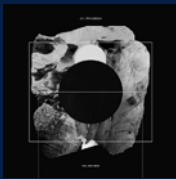
**Jónsi & Gyða Valtýsdóttir - Evól Lamina**  
The eerie vocals, the heavy breathing, the sublime distortion: perfection. GOOSEBUMPS! If there's no secret message when this is played backwards I'm suing. Anyone else convinced that a Jónsi ASMR track is what the world needs right now? Just me. Cool cool. **PA**



**Emilia Anna - Broken Bodies**  
The spiritual successor to "Dare To" by the same artist, this track bumps with a heavy bass and a melody that is eerily familiar. It's like when you get into an argument with someone right before you go dancing, and even through the loud music, you can't stop thinking about what they said. **SPD**



**Brikos - Your Message**  
EMO NEVER DIED, BABY! Imagine if Dashboard Confessional and AFI collaborated on an acoustic b-side—it would be "Your Message" by Brikos. We needed those emo throwback vocals because tbh, listening to "Jesus Christ" by Brand New on repeat was getting old. Brikos, I'm living. But I'm also dying. **HJC**



**Atli Örvarsson - You Are Here**  
He's already proven that he can do soundtracks. But his music can not only be heard in such cinematic masterpieces as this year's 'Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga'. His album "You Are Here" still sounds a lot like a movie soundtrack but it does make for a nice and dramatic background score for your daydreams. **CM**



**Kiriya Family - Every time you go**  
A polished banger from this groovy cinquant. Hulda's emotive, pining vocals will stick in your head for days, and that sweet piano solo in the middle is a burst of raw, acoustic energy. Not to mention, the video is a spectacular bit of work with mirrors and lights. **SPD**

BARFLIES REYKJAVÍK 2

As the name of this book suggests, it is a follow-up to an earlier book by the same name. Again, the people portrayed are the Kaffibarinn regulars. Some of the faces you will recognize from the first book, just a quarter of a century older. Others were not born when the bar served its first drink.



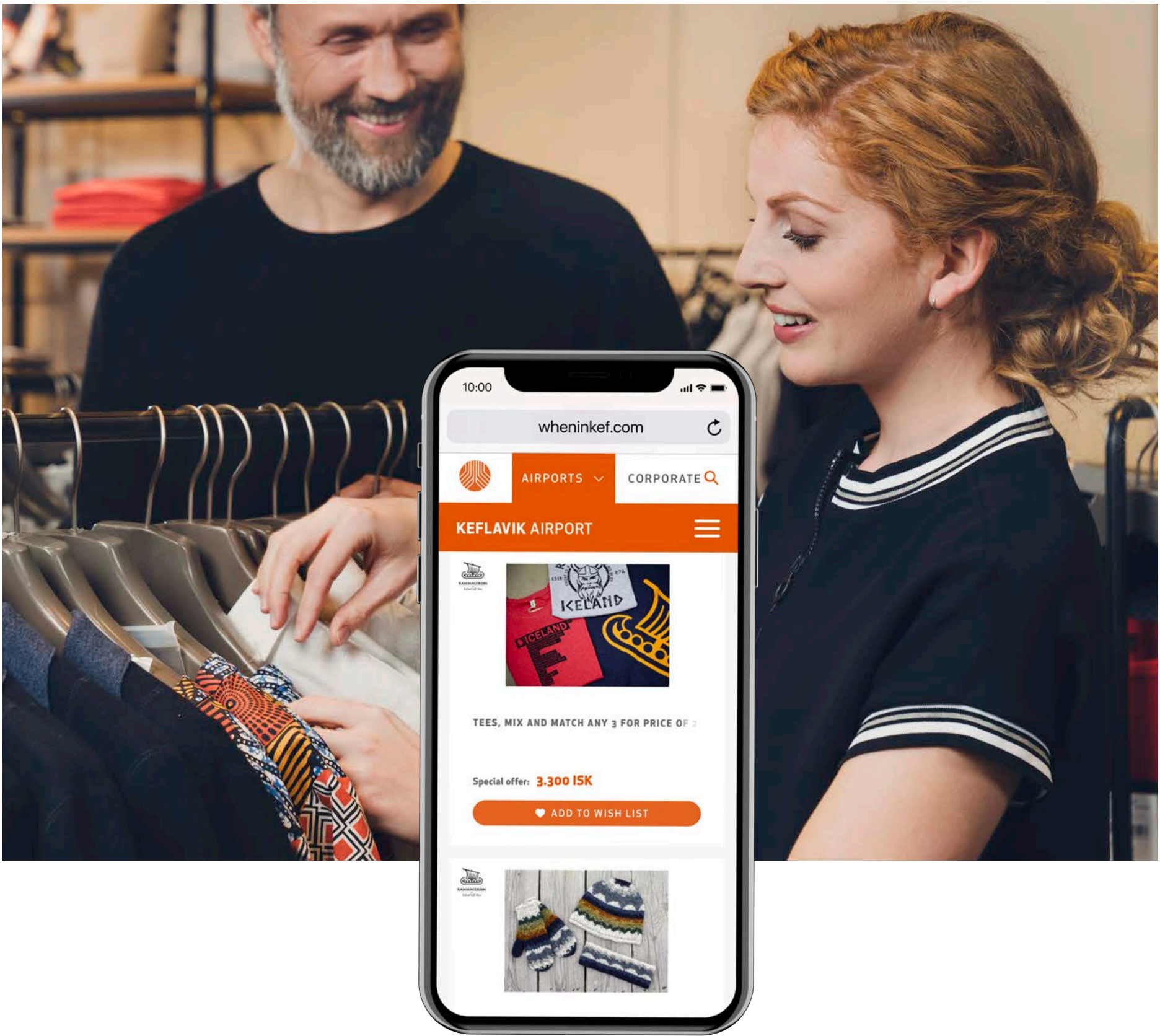
Available at Kaffibarinn  
Bergstaðastræti 1, 101 Rvk







*everything you see is*  
**TAX AND  
DUTY FREE**



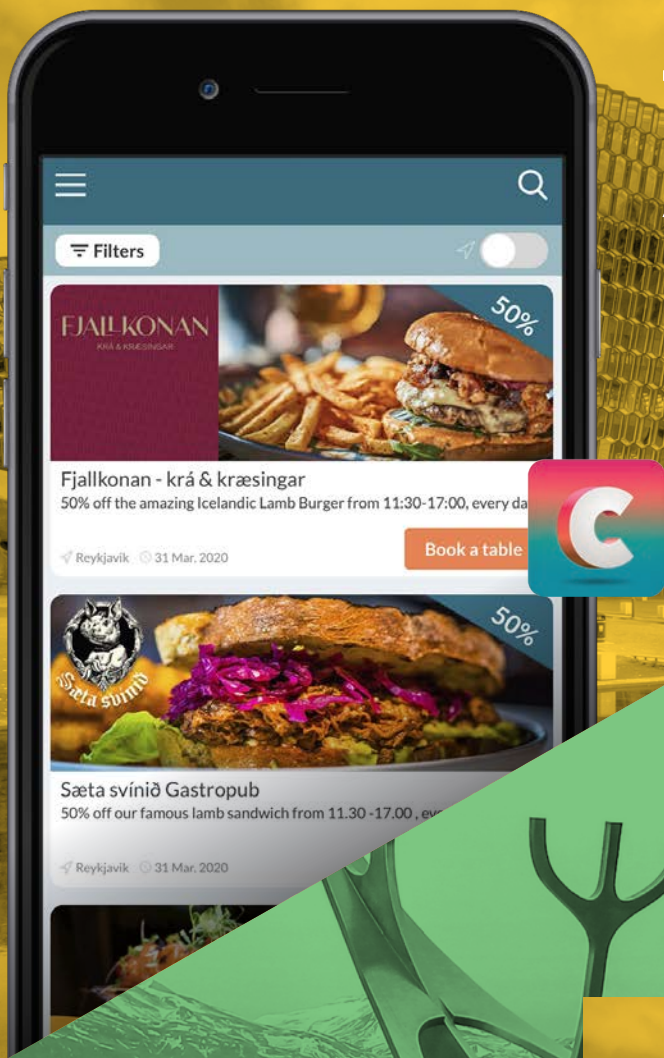
Make the most of your last hours in Iceland.  
We are your one stop shop for Icelandic design,  
souvenirs and traditional food. Browse **wheninkef.com**  
to see our selection and offers.

**All shops and restaurants are tax- and duty free.**





The only coupons  
**APP in Iceland!**  
Discounts every  
single day!



**UP TO  
50% OFF**

**Icelandic  
Coupons**  
Discounts All  
Around Iceland

You can save  
**30.000 ISK**  
every day



**Icelandic  
Coupons**  
Discounts All  
Around Iceland



**www.coupons.is**

 facebook.com/icelandiccoupons

 Instagram: #icelandiccoupons

 twitter.com/icelandiccoupon



More than 90 different companies: 2 for 1 Super Deals • Restaurants • Bars • Cafés • Entertainment • Shopping



FEATURE

# The Laugavegur Diaries

*A tale of snow, steam and sunburns*

WORDS: VALUR GRETTISSON & POPPY ASKHAM PHOTOS: ART BICNICK

Stretching 54 km between the geothermal hot pools of Landmannalaugar and the luscious Þórsmörk valley, the Laugavegur trail is something of a rite of passage for Icelanders. Complete it and you enter an elite class of hikers—at least that's what we told ourselves before setting off.

Not to be confused with Reykjavík's main shopping thoroughfare, Laugavegur is Iceland's most popular hiking route. It regularly tops global top-ten lists of trails, attracting thousands of tourists and Icelanders alike each summer. A typical Laugavegur adventure takes 2-4 days to complete (or a mere five hours for an ultramarathon runner). Intermediate in difficulty, the trail is perfectly manageable if you're fit and healthy, but ignore the Icelandic at the bar who'll inevitably tell you a toddler could walk it in their sleep. They couldn't.

We decided it was high time that the Grapevine conquered this legendary trail, so we formed a special Grapevine hiking division to take on the ole' country road. Let's meet them:

## VALUR GRETTISSON: EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

- Experience: Laugavegur second-timer, born-hiker
- Skill level: Adept hiking pole user, and no, it's not cheating.
- Strength: Charm
- Weakness: Overpacking

## POPPY ASKHAM: INTERN

- Experience: Novice
- Skill level: Questionable
- Strength: Youth
- Weakness: Vegetarian

## ART BICNICK: PHOTO EDITOR & INTERNATIONAL MAN OF MYSTERY

- Experience: Unknown
- Skill level: Infinite
- Strengths: Flawless poker face, unlimited reserves of patience
- Weakness: Sucker for sunsets

At 7:45 a.m. on an overcast Wednesday morning, our three intrepid explorers boarded the Reykjavik Excursions Bus, armed with a cobbled-together collection of borrowed hiking gear, half a tonne of camera equipment and enough harðfiskur to feed the entire Grapevine readership. Let the games begin.

CLOTHING PROVIDED BY 66° NORTH - WWW.66NORTH.IS

HIGHLAND BUS PROVIDED BY REYKJAVIK EXCURSIONS - WWW.RE.IS



- DAY 1 -

## BUBBLE BUBBLE, SURREALISM & TROUBLE

Landmannalaugar to Hraftinnusker (12 km)

**13:00** - We can't avoid talking about the weather, after all it massively determines your hiking experience. Storms and snow can regularly take hikers by surprise in the Highlands but, lucky for us, the sun is high and the temperature pleasant. We start our journey amongst beautiful hills, mainly brown, but marked with occasional splashes of red and yellow. Although it has to be said, the lava fields' frequent billows of steam kind of remind me of hell. **VG**  
**13:05** - Five minutes in and I'm acutely aware of just how heavy a two-man tent from the 90s actually is and, perhaps more pertinently, how weak I am. Repressed memories of the last time I hiked at age 15 in a particularly rain-soaked corner of Britain resurface and I'm suddenly wondering if I made the right decision. **PA**  
**13:07** - OK, so maybe this isn't too bad. The scenery is simply surreal, straight out of a Dalí painting. It's as though

the rusty-toned mountains are melting into one another. In classic Icelandic style, Laugavegur's terrain is full of extreme contrast: one second you're trudging through snow, the next you're narrowly avoiding scalding jets of sulphurous steam and bubbling hot pools. I feel as though I'm hiking through my old geography textbook. **PA**

**18:31** - The last hour was intense, but we're now officially in the highlands. Every step through the snow feels like two. My thighs are killing me. For some reason I didn't wear sunglasses and the sunlight reflected in the snow must have burnt my eyes or something. I also forgot sunscreen, as did Art. Poppy lent us some of hers, but alas I fear it is too late. Burning eyes, burning legs, burning face, burning lungs. Hell. But we've made it now. **VG**

**18:35** - Descending the snowy slope into the Hraftinnusker valley is like walking into the opening scene from Macbeth. We pitch our tents amidst mounds of obsidian rubble under the watchful gaze of a raven. A thick white fog lurks on the horizon, making it impossible to tell where snow stops and sky begins. I refuse to believe that there are no witches here—there's even plumes of steam, for Christ's sake. **PA**

**20:34** - This is what I imagined camping in another dimension would be like. When we arrived, we met a group of parents and kids who were staying in the cabin. They gave us some Mexican chicken soup and Doritos. May Þór bless them. Despite their generosity there's a definite cabin/campsite divide. Our tents are some hundred metres below the cosy cabin, which means a chilly trek to and from the bathroom. It feels like there's a metaphor for the class struggle hidden somewhere in this scenario. I feel a new idea for a play brewing. **VG**  
The dead of night... - Three sets of socks, trousers and t-shirts, a fleece, a hat, gloves and a raincoat for good measure, but I'm still cold. A nagging pain in my toes and intermittent shivering episodes keep me from sleeping, so I just gaze at the tent ceiling, watching my breath form clouds and praying for morning. Should I venture up to the cabin in search of warmth? Is this my Captain Oates moment? The worst thing is not knowing the time; the resolutely bright sun offers no indication. Drifting in and out of sleep, I have no idea how many more hours of this desperate fight for survival remain. **PA**





- DAY 2 -

## THE TWO TOWERS (OK, GLACIERS)

Hrafninnusker to Álftavatn (12 km)

**08:56** - I love this place! I slept like a baby the whole night! The sun is shining. The view is breath-taking and I'm not even hungover after last night's bottle of whisky. It truly is another dimension.

Apparently, someone was snoring like a chainsaw last night. I deny all allegations. It was definitely Art. **VG**

**09:04** - "How did you sleep?" one of the Trúss hikers asks. "We were almost too warm last night." Trúss is a new concept for me—trekkers pay companies to transport their food and supplies between campsites, leaving them free to hike with just a day pack. At night they stay in cabins overlooking the campsite, complete with running water, kitchens and central heating. Sure, there's a certain righteous satisfaction in doing Laugavegur the 'right' way by roughing it in a tent, but after a sleepless night, it's of little comfort. After a cup of tepid instant coffee, I stop complaining and we set out into the snow. **PA**

**13:42** - I decide to show off a little bit when we stop for lunch in a geothermal area, cooking hot dogs, bacon, baked beans and coffee, all using a natural hot pool. Only in Iceland, right? **VG**

**12:30** - The roar of steam is constant and I'm half-convinced that I'll round the corner to a busy high-way. Looking back, the cabin we left this morning seems depressingly close despite the fact we've been hiking for several hours now. **PA**

**14:55** - We reach the top of a steep ridge and are rewarded with quite possibly the most beautiful view I have ever seen. We can see the remaining 36 kilometres of our trek unfold, framed by the two glaciers, Eyjafjallajökull and Mýrdalsjökull. I almost feel as though I'm in the presence of a celebrity, as I gaze up at the volcano which caused so much international havoc back in 2010 (and so much personal trauma as a case study for my geography exams). **PA**

The view is nothing short of sublime. There is no way to describe it adequately, so I'll just tell you how I feel: at first, transcendent, like I'd been granted incredible knowledge about everything and nothing. But now, under the gaze of the two glaciers, I feel scared. I feel small. I feel lucky. And I feel incredibly alive. Oh, but my body feels like shit. **VG**

**18:35** - When we arrive at Álftavatn, we catch up with a group of runners who had passed us hours earlier. I feel like I should loathe these people somehow—nothing makes you feel worse than being overtaken mid-hike by 30 super-fit middle-aged Icelanders, but I only feel awe. I have to admit, it's badass to run Laugavegur. We briefly hijack a table in their cabin, helping ourselves to hot water and enjoying an unexpected accordion performance. The group's bus driver starts playing all these old Icelandic songs, but unfortunately no one quite remembers the lyrics. **VG**



HOW TO PLAY

## ÓLSEN ÓLSEN

Want to assert your dominance in the Icelandic hiking world? You're going to need to know how to play this classic card game (if you're familiar with Crazy Eights, you're a shoe-in).

♥ Each player is dealt 5 cards. One card from the stack is placed face up in the centre.

♥ Players take it in turn to put down a card that is either the same number or suit as the card before. You can put down multiple cards of the same number at once.

♥ If you can't play, you have to pick up a card (max 3) until you can either play a card or are forced to pass.

♥ Eights are magic cards that mean you can select the suit the next player has to follow. Pro tip: save them until last.

♥ The aim is to be the first to get rid of all your cards, but remember to shout Ólsen when you've got one card left otherwise you'll have to pick up three more. When you run out of cards, shout Ólsen Ólsen.



- DAY 3 -

## SUDDENLY WE'RE WALT WHITMAN

Álftavatn to Emstrur (15 km)

**08:27** - Last night was horrible. I woke up 40 times; 35 of which were down to Art's snoring (see, it was him after all). But yesterday evening was great fun. We met a solo hiker from the Netherlands and taught him Ólsen Ólsen [an Icelandic card game] over a bottle of whisky and some excellent Dutch chocolate. He attempted to teach us a game called toepen, but only Art understood—the man's suspiciously good at card games. That's one of the best things about Laugavegur, it's incredibly sociable. **VG**

**11:36** - Nothing can prepare you for the agony of your first glacier river crossing. The only way to understand is to experience it for yourself. But once you've recovered, you feel invincible. **PA**

**12:44** - Another f\*\$%^&? river. You've got to be kidding me. Oh, the pain! I was almost crying on the other side. But after I got my socks and shoes back on, I felt almost high. It's like what I imagine a coffee enema feels like. **VG**

**16:30** - When Valur said that trekking through kilometres of black sand would be a mental test, I thought he was joking, but three hours in and with

no end in sight, none of us are laughing. The post-glacier-river euphoria kept us going at first, but after the tenth time I climbed a hill in the absolute certainty that I'd be greeted with the sight of Emstrur, only to see yet more black sand, I began to change my mind. This is nothing short of apocalyptic. **PA**

I hate the fucking sands! I just fucking hate the sands! I can't stress this enough. It's an odd combination of soul-crushing monotony and eerie beauty. The wind whips the sand about our feet, giving it a life of its own, almost like a wild animal. In a sudden frenzy it engulfs us, filling our eyes and noses with dust, before dissipating into the wind once more. God, it's even driven me to poetry.

### I Am No Longer Human

If they ask me,  
I'll tell them that the glaciers  
are not white  
and majestic,  
and overwhelming,  
but a hand grenade

that the cliffs  
are an illusion  
that you can fly off  
and be swept away  
like a small leaf

That the muddy river  
is not ice cold  
and dark  
and painful  
but  
a soft warm silk  
that flows through the  
canyons,  
flapping around  
in the strong wind

If they ask me,  
I'll tell them  
that I am no longer  
a human,  
but a glacier,  
dark river,  
steep cliff,  
that will embrace  
their fall  
VG

**18:07** - When we finally spot Emstrur, we practically sprint down the hillside in relief. After yet another meal of pasta, we return to the tent exhausted. "Let's play cards." No one moves. "Let's talk instead." No one speaks. "Let's just lie here." **PA**  
**20:31** - I've got sand in my teeth, which feels like an important thing to note here. **VG**





- DAY 4 -

SCREW YOU NATURE

Emstrur to Þórsmörk (15 km)

**09:15** - I'm trying to give everyone at the campsite food from my backpack in a desperate attempt to lighten my load. Only Poppy accepted the kind offer of porridge with a sprinkling of crushed Maryland cookies—an innovation I'm immensely proud of. What was I thinking when I was packing? That I was going to the moon? Also, I'm out of coffee. Why did I take a kilo of oats, but almost no coffee? **VG**

**14:30** - Today's route offers the most varied scenery of our journey. We cross rickety bridges over huge canyon rivers, scrabble down dusty mountainsides and walk through lava fields speckled with minute red flowers. As the landscape becomes less severe, wildlife and vegetation slowly return. It's the first time we've seen trees the entire hike. We even spot a lóa camou-

- DAY 5 -

MONOTONY RETURNS

**09:25** - I'm entertaining the possibility that I might be indestructible. Five days and 55 kilometres and not a single blister, not even any aches or pains.

flaged amongst the moss. Thinking back to the snowy highlands or yesterday's black wasteland, I can barely believe Laugavegur's contrasts. **PA**

**15:03** - Everything seems... I don't know. I'm watching the glaciers in the burning sunlight. I can feel my skin burning. My body somehow feels slower, but it's like my mind has entered some state of hyperfocus. Actually, it feels like a nice time to write a poem like the romantic poets of the past did. They got a hard-on every time they saw a mountain. Well, I don't have a hard-on, but it's worth trying. **VG**

**15:23** - The final glacier river looms before us; a great grey serpent barring our way. A low dread simmers in my stomach as I remove my socks and boots and roll up my trousers, before slipping on still soggy trainers. Earlier on in the trip we were told by a hiker heading in the opposite direction that the river reaches hip height but looking at the churning waters it's impossible

No one is more surprised than me—maybe this is my calling? Watch out Everest, I'm unstoppable. **PA**

**11:30** - I feel numb. It's kind of hard to focus. My thighs are killing me, but my feet are in pretty good shape. I feel somewhat out of touch with everyday

CONCLUSIONS

HIGHLIGHTS

➤ The unexpected adrenaline rush that comes after crossing a bitingly cold glacier river for the first time and the pure relief of pulling on a pair of dry socks afterwards. **PA**

➤ When Poppy told me that the view was the most beautiful thing that she had seen. It made me feel glad that I could help someone experience that, and immensely proud of my home country. **VG**

FAVOURITE DAY

➤ Day 2 - The views over Álftavatn and the two glaciers, Eyjafjallajökull and Mýrdalsjökull make every one of the trail's 55 kilometres worth it. **PA**

➤ Day 1 - Whiskey, chicken soup and countless rounds of Ólsen Ólsen in the Highlands. Can't really beat that. **VG**

WORST DAY

➤ Day 3 - Black sands. **PA**

➤ Day 3 – Did we mention the two rivers? **VG**

FAVOURITE CAMPSITE

➤ Álftavatn - Real grass to pitch your tent on plus a massive lake—what's not to love? Head straight there on the first night. Sure it means a 24km day, but it's worth it to avoid Hrafninnusker. **PA**

➤ Hrafninnusker - It's like camping on the border of life and death. Dramatic and odd. Who needs comfort anyway? **VG**

BEST HIKING FOOD

➤ Chocolate-covered nuts and raisin mix—a hiker's crack cocaine. **PA**

➤ Tortilla wraps – the most space-efficient lunch. Sorry, but flatkaka doesn't quite cut it. **VG**

WORST HIKING FOOD

➤ Granola - mix with water for a depressing start to any morning or use as a highly inadequate pillow at night. Just wait until the bag splits in your backpack, then the fun really starts. (Honourable mention also goes out to Harðfiskur. I still haven't quite forgiven Art for its unholy stench). **PA**

➤ Baked beans. It's just weird to have that in your backpack. I know that now. **VG**

BIGGEST MISTAKE

➤ Getting sunstroke. Yes, it can actually happen in Iceland. I was surprised, too. **PA**

➤ Forgetting to eat. It happens to the best of us. **VG**

TOP TIP

➤ Bring a pack of cards. **PA**

➤ Don't forget sunscreen, shades and an extra pair of shoes for river crossings (and whiskey, of course). **VG**



life. It's like I'm permanently hungover after the highlands or I'm existing on a different frequency. I feel a little sad it's over, but I'm incredibly glad at the same time. I feel like I can do anything, although I might have to rest for a few days first. **VG**

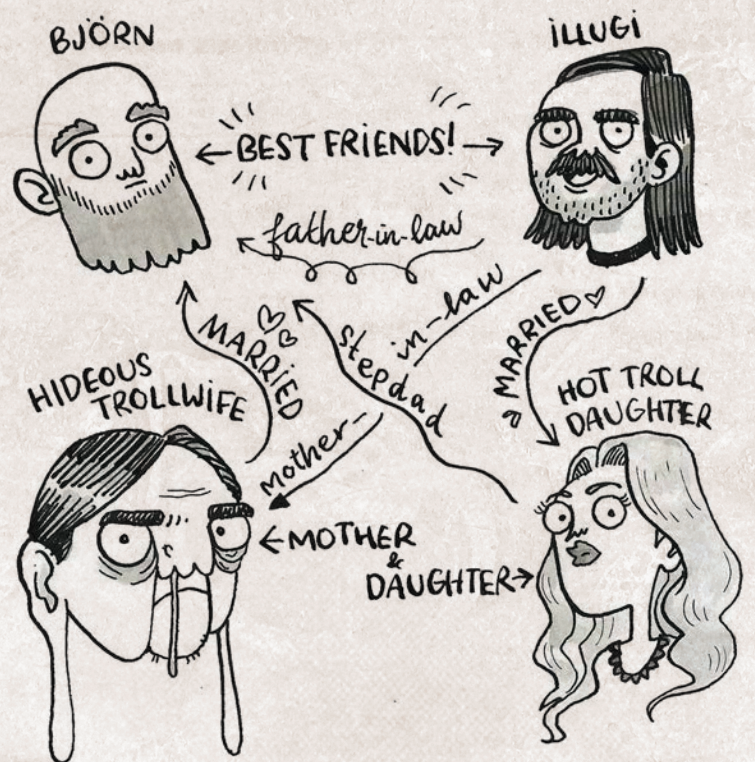


# THE SAGAS AND SHIT

ICELANDIC LITERATURE  
CRUDELY ABRIDGED

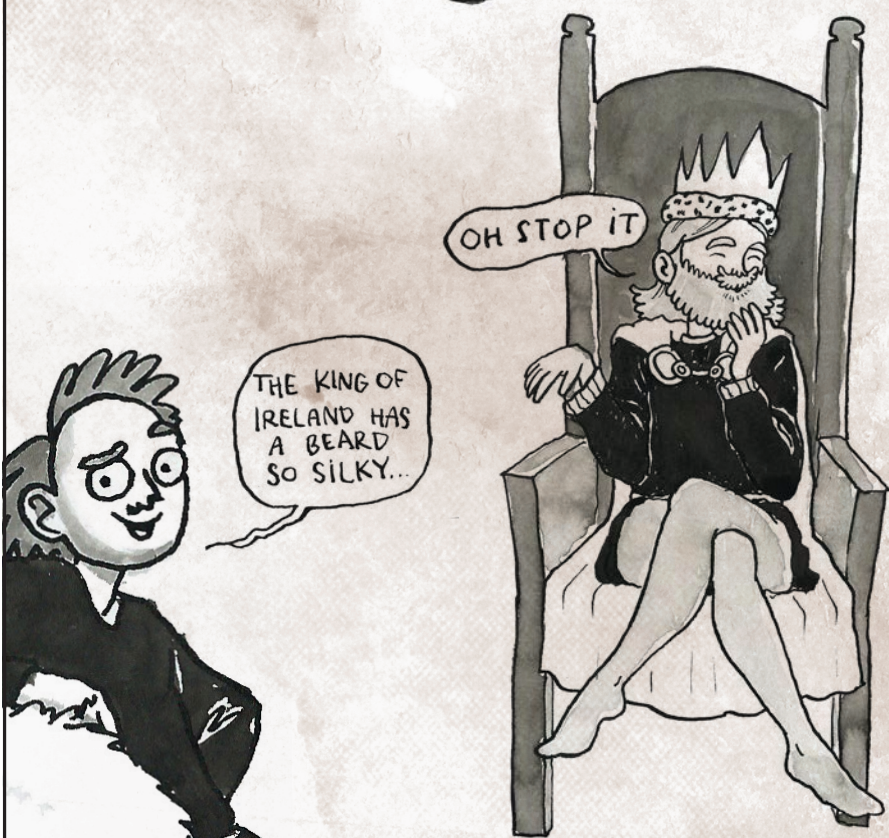
**NEW BOOK!**  
The Icelandic Sagas  
like you've never  
seen them before!

"I HATE YOU! WHAT YOU WROTE ABOUT  
NÍALS SAGA REALLY HURT MY FEELINGS."  
A DRUNK PHD STUDENT



**GRAYSON DEL FARO**

ILLUSTRATED BY  
ELÍN ELÍSBET EINARSDÓTTIR



ICELAND'S LARGEST BOOKSTORE

Forlagið bookstore | Fiskislóð 39 | Open weekdays 10-18 | Saturdays 11-16 | [www.forlagid.is](http://www.forlagid.is)



# Happening

Find today's events in Iceland! Download our free listings app - APPENING on the Apple and Android stores



## RAINBOWS ASSEMBLE!

Pride Parade

August 8th - 14:00 - Reykjavík - Free!

Don your finest rainbow garb for the annual penultimate event of Pride: the Reykjavík Pride Parade. The beloved spectacle serves up dramatic floats and marches from nearly all LGBTQ+ groups in the country—can we say representation? This year, due to COVID-19 and its subsequent restrictions, the parade will be altered to ensure the safety of everyone involved so make sure to check out their website for updated routes and info. Most importantly, don't lose your voice from singing too much Páll Óskar. **HJC**



## Serving Saga Realness

Memoirs Of A Valkyrie Returns!

August 7th - 19:00 - Tjarnarbió - 3,900 ISK (presale), 4,400 ISK (at door)

The bitches are back for a special Pride reunion, so serve up some Valkyrie realness with drag queens Agatha P., Faye Knús, Gógó Starr, and Sigga Eyrún in this romp through the multiple tales of the beloved shieldmaiden Brynhildr—who you might know from stories like Die Walküre, Sleeping Beauty, and more. Through the mediums of beauty pageants, opera, rap, and a hysterical take on contemporary dance, the four divas will show you history like you've never seen it. **HJC**



## Justice For Breonna Taylor

#blacklivesmatter In Iceland

August 4th - 12:00 - Lecture Hall at the National Museum - Free!

2020 has had one silver lining: it saw the biggest worldwide protest ever as Black people and allies stood together to demand the end of police brutality against Black people. But what effect has the movement had in Iceland? At this special event, queer people of colour share their experiences of racism in Iceland and give their recommendations on what can be done to rectify these ills. **HJC**

## CULTURE NEWS



Painting the town in rainbows

## Festival

Reykjavík Pride 2020 will be from August 4th to 9th. Check out the complete programme at [hinsegindagur.is](https://hinsegindagur.is)

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen

Photos: Art Bicnick

# Pride In A Pandemic

## Reykjavík Pride reshapes itself for 2020

“Our first decision was that, no matter what, we weren’t going to cancel,” Vilhjálmur “Villi” Ingi Vilhjálmsson, the President of Reykjavík Pride, says proudly. Sitting back, he takes a bite of a croissant, apologising quickly for eating during the interview—he’s been in Pride meetings all day, he explains. “Of course,” he continues, “this year, we wouldn’t be able to gather 80,000 downtown for a parade, but Pride is about so much more than just walking down one street. The parade is just the mask.”

The regulations and gathering bans surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic meant the big events and fantastical parade that Reykjavík Pride had become synonymous with were impossible. This forced the board, when planning the 2020 iteration, Villi explains, to dive down into the festival’s roots. “We started to think: What is the meaning of Pride? What is the core identity? What are we really trying to do here?” The answer, he emphasises, was visibility. “It’s acknowledgement. It’s seeing people showcased that you can bond with or see yourselves in. It’s education... It’s a community coming together.”

### Inviting everyone in

While there will be a parade this year, Villi reiterates, it won’t be centralised. “We will all walk at the same time, but not in the same place. So each group

is together mentally but—for safety reasons—going separate ways,” he explains. The unexpected benefit of this, though, is that it’ll bring Pride to a wider audience. “We can reach neighbourhoods that have never seen a Pride parade and people that don’t come downtown.”

So the focus of this year’s festival will be less on massive entertainment spectacles and more on educational and cultural events. Yes, there will be the traditional Opening Ceremony, but it’ll be less focused on what performers are

on stage and more on bringing people together socially.

“We want to create the space of people in the community seeing each other. It’s a family gathering,” he says. “It’s one thing to invite people in and say that you invite everybody in, but it’s another to create an environment where everybody feels invited. That’s what we need.” Along with that, Pride will also be lowering the ticket prices and allowing those in difficult financial positions to request free admission, with Villi explaining that the team is “listening to the criticisms that we got last year.”

In terms of educational events, Pride 2020 will feature lectures and conversations on Black Lives Matter and transphobia and particularly the bigotry of TERFs (trans exclusionary radical feminists). It’ll also look at LGBTQIA+ individuals in the school system, as well as put on networking events for queer people in the job market.

Other outreach events will focus on queer immigrants. “Maybe we haven’t been looking enough into the foreign demographic in Iceland,” Villi admits. “How are they integrating with the Icelandic queer community? Are they? My feeling is that we aren’t always reaching them, so maybe we aren’t as inclusive as we think we are.”

### That's Pride!

Villi is excited about the revamped pandemic-Pride and hopes the festival will bring as much magic to others as it first brought to his life many years ago. He first walked in the festival only months after coming out. “I came out in May and then walked that year with the queer football club. On that day, I did an interview with one other member and it was in the newspaper, so in the span of three months I kind of jumped out of the closet,” he laughs.

His most magical moment, though, was the first time he walked in the parade as a member of the Pride board. “At that time, the board didn’t usually walk in the parade, but that year we arranged it so we could,” he explains. “My friend and I got high heels—we had never walked on heels before so it was quite interesting—and I met my friend and her son.”

“Her son likes to wear dresses to kindergarten. He wakes up, plays with his Hulk action figure and then likes to wear a dress to school sometimes. He was waving to me and I realised I represented something to him—that he could mix and match and it was OK,” Villi says. “In that moment, we were someone that he could relate to. That’s Pride.” 🏳️‍🌈

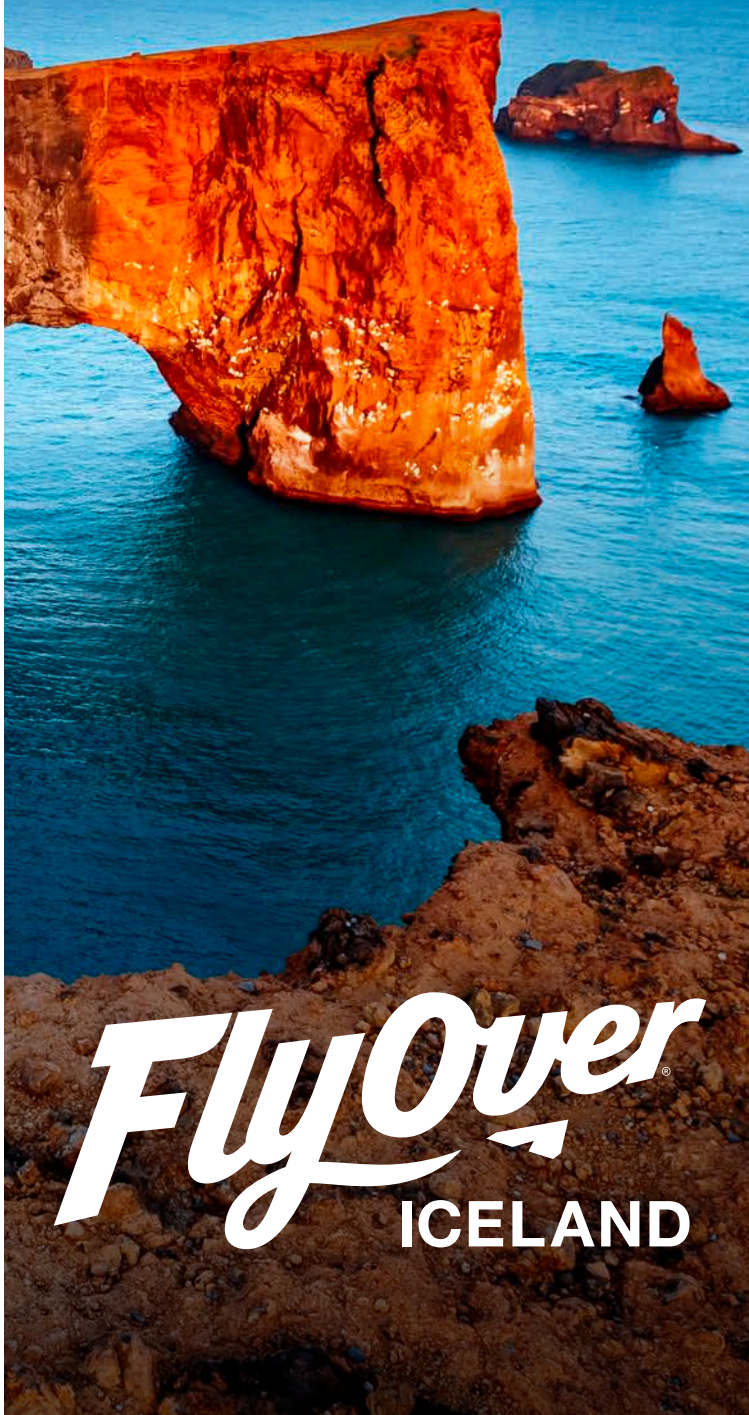


Vilhjálmur "Villi" Ingi Vilhjálmsson, the President of Pride



# EXPLORE UNSEEN ICELAND

WITHOUT  
LEAVING  
THE CITY!



This band pic gave our captions writer symbolism overload and he had to go home

## A Soundtrack To Get Thrown Out Of Society To

Skoffín provides the indie rock  
album for the climate crisis

Words: **Poppy Askham** Photos: **Art Bicnick**

In IDNÓ's airy attic space, overlooking Tjörnin, Jóhannes (Jói) Bjarki Bjarkason, Bjarni Daniel, Auðunn Orri Sigurvinsson and Sævar Andri Sigurðarson sit comfortably, sporting electric blue boiler suits and sipping coffee as they reflect on their band's new album, 'Skoffín hentar íslenskum aðstæðum'. Full of existential angst, the release is heavier than Skoffín's previous offerings, but still retains the raw youthful energy that is these indie rockers' lifeblood.

### A generation in danger

"We wanted to parallel the Cold War era atmosphere in Iceland to the climate crisis atmosphere that we're facing nowadays," Jói explains, referencing the album's apocalyptic lyrics and jittery guitar riffs. "I was having a chat with my parents. I was talking about becoming vegan and I was just facing this existential crisis," he continues. "I felt that my life and the lives of our generation were in danger."

"Which they are," Bjarni solemnly interjects.

Skoffín has always had a political undercurrent—all are proud members of the anti-capitalist grassroots music collective Postdreifing. In fact, Bjarni is currently orchestrating the group's summer takeover at IDNÓ in place of their cancelled Hátíðni festival. But 'Skoffín hentar íslenskum aðstæðum' is arguably the band's most radical recording yet. "I actually have this really good quote [about the album] recorded on my phone from Sævar," Auðunn explains. "It's 'we're going to be thrown out of society for this album.'"

### Songs for trembling

Though the musicians are quick to crack a joke about the lyrics, they're clearly heavily invested in their subject matter. "I remember rehearsing 'Sætar stelpur' and just bursting into tears," Jói recounts. "I feel as though there's something in that song that's trying to

come out and kill me... the energy's very much desperate."

Bjarni nods. "When we practise sometimes, I end up trembling," he says, seconding Jói's account. "I've played so much music over the past couple of years, but these tunes still really, really get to me. I think we left some magic in these songs—some dread and anxiety that gets brought back to life every time they are played."

So, imagine the band's surprise when the first reviews came out, describing 'Skoffín hentar íslenskum aðstæðum' as a "fun record." On reflection, Jói recognises that, despite its heavy theme, the album is, as he describes, "...a really fun record to play."

### A flirtatious nightmare

And there we find the central irony of the album: it's both energetic and nihilistic, seemingly playful and panicked all at once. "We're sort of flirting with a bunch of different subject matters," Auðunn explains. "We're directly talking about atomic bombs and mass

destruction but also comparing it to having crushes on girls." Few other bands could pivot so effortlessly between referencing the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and rising CO2 levels to the trials and tribulations of a teenager in love.

According to Bjarni, this was intentional—dig below the surface and you'll always find some link back to the album's sombre theme.

Take 60s-feel doo-wop track "Skoffín vinnur sem tæknifræðin-

"I remember  
rehearsing  
'Sætar stelpur'  
and just burst-  
ing into tears."





gur hjá borginni”—“if you think about it in context to the terrifying opening C# diminished chord, even this doo-wop song becomes terrifying, it’s actually nightmarish,” Bjarni explains. Inspired by a host of new-wave post-punk musicians, the band harnesses these clashing components to heighten the album’s jarring energy. “We became very invested in this idea of making it sound very anxious, making it very in your face,” Jói says. “The whole process was very experimental.”

#### “A hard-working band”

Initially Jói’s solo project, Skoffín has had numerous line-ups over the years, but it’s now secure in its membership, the group has evolved. “Skoffín became a different entity when we all started pitching in ideas,” Auðunn explains. “The songs always start with an idea and then another and another and we just stack them until we’ve got a whole song. It’s been really fun to see what we can do together.”

“It’s getting more collaborative,” Jói confirms, and all four agree that the band is stronger as a result.

Although the band’s structure may have shifted over the years, its values have not. “We’re a very

hardworking band,” Jói says. “There’s this blue-collar work ethic about us.” The four then dive into the story of how they recorded the album with the help of The Vaccines’ Árni Árnason—an intense three-day long process set in a cramped “bunker of undisclosed location,” as they refer to it.

#### Grassroots roots

This indomitable work ethic stems in part from the member’s grassroots background. Hosting

“I felt that my life and the lives of our generation were in danger.”



free gigs, as Jói explains, “in somebody’s grandmother’s living room where you have to manoeuvre your guitar, so it doesn’t hit somebody” has long been the norm for Skoffín. “We’ve played the worst venues with the worst sound systems and tiny crowds,” he con-

tinues. “We’ve done all the worst things you can do with live music, but we’ve always had so much fun. I think you make the best memories in these quirky little spots that don’t quite logistically add up to a music venue.”

Hosting energetic, but somewhat makeshift gigs has shaped the album and the band. The first three songs were initially tested out last summer during a hectic run of weekly performances. “We do these gigs first and foremost for the love of it, but they really boosted the project further,” Bjarni explains. “You can practice endlessly... but actually playing to other people is what’s really important.”

But the band has since moved on to bigger stages. In fact, if it weren’t for COVID-19, they’d be halfway through a US tour right now. As Bjarni reflects, their DIY anarchic approach to music-making may not be tenable forever. “But it’s a very important part of who we are and we will never leave this scene behind,” he concludes. “No matter what happens in the future, this scene will always be what we came from.”

# WEEKEND BRUNCH

[11:30 - 16:00]

A DISH FULL OF TASTY BRUNCH + MIMOSA

ONLY 2990 KR.

## JÖRGENSEN

KITCHEN & BAR

JORGENSENKITCHEN.IS  
LAUGAVEGUR 120, 105 REYKJAVÍK  
+354 595 8565





Ásgeir says celebrate capitalists, not celibate capitalists! "we just made this up

# Capitalists, Celebrate!

How to celebrate Merchants' Weekend 2020... like a consumer

Words: Poppy Askham Photos: Art Bicnick, Timothée Lambrecq, Guðný Ag & Subject's Own

Legend has it that every August a great and mighty Icelandic boat dude would disembark his vessel and pass out on the shoreline after a couple of brennivín-fuelled choruses of "Ja Ja Ding Dong." And thus Merchants' Weekend was born. (Don't quote us on that one).

You'll find the Grapevine Party Crew strewn across the island this bank holiday, celebrating capitalism in true Icelandic style: attending a series of enriching cultural events.



## Innipúkinn 2020

July 31st-August 2nd - Gamla Bíó - 4,990-8,990 ISK

So you're stuck at home in Reykjavík instead of passing out in a sheep-filled field somewhere near Sauðárkrúkur? Boo hoo. Quit moaning, you can still get shit-faced in the capital and they'll even throw in some great music too. Innipúkinn was started 18 years ago for city dwellers who value qual-

ity sound systems and even higher quality acts and couldn't be bothered to make the traditional trek into the countryside for Merchant's Weekend. Indoor demons (the literal translation of "Innipúkinn") can enjoy a stellar line-up this year—Reykjavíkurdætur, GDRN, Skoffín and gugusar, to name but a few. The crème de la crème of Icelandic music, access to actual bathrooms and going home to a real bed (fingers crossed)—we'll let you do the math.



## Aimlessly wandering around Vestmannaeyjar 2020

July 31st-August 2nd - Vestmannaeyjar

Ok so Þjóðhátíð is cancelled this year, but in the light of the festival's troubling history, maybe that's not something to get overly worked up about. Don't fret, a puffin in the know tells us that the Westman Islands is actually worth visiting

sober, so why not go anyway? The region boasts phenomenal hiking routes and a fab volcano museum. And for the foodies, local restaurant Slippurinn offers some of the best of Nordic cuisine. Time to start living it up large in the Westman Islands, folks.



## Reykjavík Live

Every weekend July-August - Dillon Whiskey Bar

There was no Secret Solstice festival this year (which we're still sad about) but the crew behind the festival is now putting on this special concert series at Dillon Whiskey Bar. If COVID's ruined your holiday plans or you simply can't summon enough mental energy to venture out of the house, the whole thing's going to be live-streamed. Better than nothing, right? Much better in fact because this Merchants' Weekend BENSOL, Rokky, GG Blús and Fox Train Safari will be gracing the Dillon stage.



## Samúel's Art Festival

July 31st-August 2nd - Selárdalur - 5000-9000 ISK

You like art? We got art. Ok, more specifically we've got a shit ton of Samúel Jónsson's art. That's right, the Westfjords beloved "artist with a child's heart" has a whole festival dedicated to him—we're talking guided walking tours, family-friendly workshops, food, coffee, and more!. There's even going to be a play about the legend's life at Kómedíuleikhúsið. But it's not all about Samúel, there's some other great artists featured too, including Magnús Thor Sigmundsson and Monika Abendroth. All of this quirky goodness is going down in Selárdalur. The Westfjords is where it is AT.



## The Berjadagar Festival

July 30th-August 2nd - Ólafsfjörður - 9500 ISK

The Berjadagar Festival is just as charming as you'd expect a festival named after a blueberry to be. Ólafsfjörður will be transformed for the weekend into a classical music hub, not that we needed any further excuse to visit our favourite of northern Iceland's ski-obsessed towns with back-to-front pools that are deepest at the point of entry. Each night there'll be a series of performances from Icelandic musicians in the town church and the Tjarnarborg Culture House—both of which have acoustics that even Prince Albert would envy. 🍷

## BEST OF REYKJAVÍK

### Best Place To Buy A Wool Sweater



## Handprjónasamband Islands

Skólavörðustígur 19  
"This is a no-brainer," one panellist said, the moment the category "Best Place To Buy A Wool Sweater" came up. "Handprjónasamband Íslands is the real-deal. It's real Iceland. Many places mass-produce and import their lopapeysa nowadays, but there, you're buying a freshly-knitted sweater directly from the maker who is probably a Grandma that poured a lot of love into it." Stacked from floor to ceiling with cosy woolly goodness, the store offers sweaters, gloves and more, in every colour of the rainbow.

## RUNNERS UP

### Red Cross

Laugavegur 12 & 116 & Skólavörðustígur 12  
The Red Cross is not only the cheapest option for a second-hand wool sweater, but it's also one of the more unusual spots to pick one up. Racks of sweaters of various styles and vintages greet you at the stores, and while perusing, it's easy to imagine you're snatching up something owned previously by a Westfjords farmer named Þórgrímur. Hey, you could be.

### Farmers Market

Laugavegi 37 & Hólmahlóð 2  
For a different take on the Nordic-style sweater, look no further than Farmers & Friends. Their designs update the traditional garment into a fitted and distinctly high-street getup. Pair it with fitted trousers and heels and you'll blend right in at any Scandinavian fashion event. 🍷

**TEHÚSIÐ**  
HOSTEL • CAFE • BAR

Homemade cakes & soups, vegan & friendly food

Private rooms & dorms

Best selection of Icelandic Beers in the East

Happy Hour all days 15 - 19

Joy, Sustainability & Honesty

Kaupvangur 17 - Egilsstaðir  
tel: +354-471-2450

**FISKFÉLAGIÐ**  
FISH COMPANY

Voted the **Best Seafood Restaurant** in Reykjavík for the 10th time!

👉 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015  
2014 2013 2012 2010

Fish Company - Vesturgötu 2a - 101 Reykjavík - +354 552 5300 - www.fishcompany.is

**HORNIÐ**  
Restaurant - Pizzeria

**Hornið** opened in 1979 was the first restaurant of its kind in Iceland, a restaurant with a true Italian atmosphere. Hornið is known for good food made out of fresh raw materials, good pizzas baked in front of the guests, good coffee and comfortable service.

Lunch offers every day.  
Open every day from 11.00 to 23.30  
For reservations call 551-3340

Restaurant Hornið - Hafnarstræti 15, 101 Reykjavík - +354 551 3340 - www.hornid.is

Mon ciel, mi cielo. What do you really mean?

17.06. - 06.09. 2020

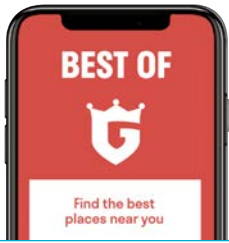
Skaftfell - Center for Visual Art  
Austurvegur 4a - 101 Reykjavík - Skaftfell.is

Ingibjörg Sigurjónsdóttir



July 17th—August 13th

# In Your Pocket



Reykjavík Map

Places We Like

Best Of Reykjavík

## Perfect Day

Dance, jive & have the time of your life



Photo: Art Bienick

### Bjarki Þór Guðmundsson

*Bjarki Þór Guðmundsson is the owner of the Shave Cave in Skeifan, which just opened on July 15th. He is also a super goth, DJ and host of Reykjavík Goth Night, which returns to Gaukurinn on July 25th with the Plague Edition. Here, he regales us with his vision of a perfect day, which involves giving good haircuts and keeping the dance floor happy.*

#### Morning

I'm a type-B person, so I would love to sleep in, even for just a little bit—let's say 10:00-10:30, something like that. I would have some nice breakfast with my five-year-old daughter, Ariana, and my girlfriend, Hafey,

when we wake up.

After breakfast, we would all watch a little bit of TV while cuddling on the couch. Then we would go have lunch at **Mosfellsbakari**. I would get the lovely veggie sub with mustard sauce and sparkling water.

#### Afternoon

I would take my daughter swimming at her favourite swimming pool, **Kópavogslaug**. After, I would drop Ariana at her mom's place as I head to work for a few hours at my brand new barber shop, **Shave Cave**, which my friend and coworker Edda and I run together on Grensásvegur 22. I would give a few of my friends good haircuts and beard trims.

My girlfriend and I would go to

my favourite restaurant, **Matarkjallarinn: The Food Cellar** for dinner. I would get the pepper steak, medium rare of course, ending with my favourite dessert, their Lion Bar.

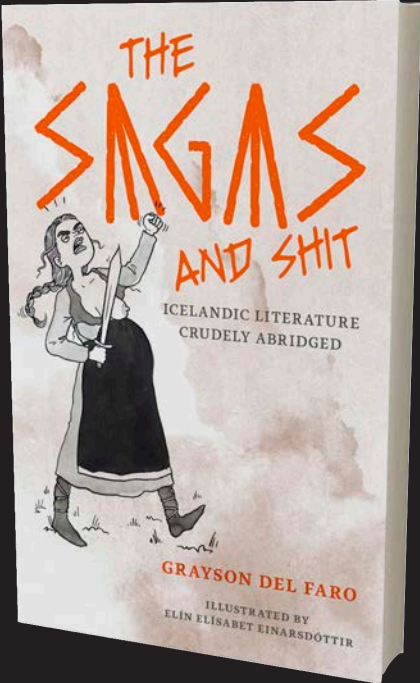
#### Night

After dinner, we would head to **Gaukurinn**, where I would be hosting my club night, **Reykjavík Goth Night**, with one of my all time favourite bands Pysclon Nine, the legendary Skinny Puppy, and of course, our very own Hatari playing, and then I would keep the dance floor happy with my DJ-ing until closing time.

Then the bands, the crew, some friends and I would go to some nice after party, until it's time for the perfect day to end. 🍷



Get Grapevine Merch!



shop.grapevine.is  
shop.grapevine.is  
shop.grapevine.is  
shop.grapevine.is  
shop.grapevine.is  
shop.grapevine.is

Don't Hesitate!  
Act Now!



\*You only need to type the URL in once

## Venue Finder

Venues			Museums & Galleries		
The numbers on the right (i.e. E4) tell you position on the map on the next page					
Austur Austurstræti 7	D3	Kaffibarinn Bergstaðastræti 1	E4	ART67 Laugavegur 67	F7
American Bar Austurstræti 8	D3	Kiki Queer Bar Laugavegur 22	E5	Ámundarsalur Freyjugata 41	G6
Andrými Bergþórugata 20	G6	Loft Bankastræti 7	E4	Aurora Reykjavík Grandagarður 2	B1
B5 Bankastræti 5	E4	Mengi Öðinsgata 2	F5	Ásgrímur Jónsson Museum Bergstaðastr. 74	G4
Bió Paradís Hverfisgata 54	E5	Nordic House Sturlagata 5	H2	Berg Contemporary Klappargistigur 16	E5
Bravó Laugavegur 22	E5	Ölsmiðjan Lækjargata 10	E3	Berg Contemporary Klappargistigur 16	E5
Curious Hafnarstræti 4	D3	Paloma Naustin	D3	The Culture House Hverfisgata 15	E5
Dillon Laugavegur 30	E5	Papaku Reykjavík Klappargistigur 28	E5	The Einar Jónsson Museum Eiríksgrata	G5
Dubliner Naustin 1-3	D3	Prikið Bankastræti 12	E4	Exxistenz Bergstaðast. 25b	F4
English Pub Austurstræti 12	D3	R6013 Ingólfsstræti 20	E4	Galleri List Skipholt 50A	H10
Gaukurinn Tryggvagata 22	D3	Röntgen Hverfisgata 12	E5	M-F 11-17, Sat 13-17	
Hard Rock Café Lækjargata 2a	D3	Reykjavík Roasters Kárástigur 1	F5	The National Gallery of Iceland Frikirkjuvegur 7	F3
Hressó Austurstræti 20	D3	Stofan Café Vesturgata 3	D3	Open daily 10-17	
Iðnó Vonarstræti 3	E3	Tjarnarbið Tjarnargata 12	E3	The National Museum Sudurgata 41	G2
Kex Hostel Skúlagata 28	E7			Open daily 10-17	
				The Nordic House Sturlugata 5	H2
				Thurs 11-17, W 11-20	
				The National Museum Sudurgata 41	G2
				Open daily 10-17	
				The Nordic House Sturlugata 5	H2
				Thurs 11-17, W 11-20	
				Hafnarhús Tryggvagata 17	D3
				Open 10-17, Thu 10-22	
				i8 Gallery Tryggvagata 16	D3
				Tu-Fri 11-18, Sat 13-17	
				The Penis Museum Laugavegur 116	F8
				Open daily 10-18	
				Kirsuþerjatréð Vesturgata 4	D3
				M-F 10-18, Sat-Sun 10-17	
				Kling & Bang Grandagarður 20	A4
				W-Sun 14-18, Th 12-21	
				Listastofan Hringbraut 119	
				Open Wed-Sat 13-17	
				Living Art Museum Grandagarður 20	A4
				T-Sun 12-18, Th 12-21	
				Mokka Kaffi Skólavörðustig. 3A	E5
				Open daily 9-18:30	
				Museum of Design and Applied Art Garðatorg 1	
				Open Tu-Sun 12-17	
				The National Gallery of Iceland Frikirkjuvegur 7	F3
				Open daily 10-17	
				The National Museum Sudurgata 41	G2
				Open daily 10-17	
				The Nordic House Sturlugata 5	H2
				Thurs 11-17, W 11-20	
				Hafnarhús Tryggvagata 17	D3
				Open 10-17, Thu 10-22	
				i8 Gallery Tryggvagata 16	D3
				Tu-Fri 11-18, Sat 13-17	
				Kjarvalsstaðir Flókagata 24	H8
				Open daily 10-17	
				Ámundarsafn Sigtúnar	
				Open daily 10-17	
				Reykjavík City Library Tryggvagata 15	D3
				Mon-Thu 10-18, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-17	
				Árbæjarsafn Kistuhylur 4	
				Open daily 13-17	
				The Settlement Exhibition Adalstræti 16	D3
				Open daily 9-18	
				Reykjavík Museum of Photography Tryggvagata 15	D3
				Mon-Thu 10-18, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-18	
				Saga Museum Grandagarður 2	B2
				Open daily 10-18	
				Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum Leugarnestangi 70	
				Open Tu-Sun 14-17	
				SÍM Hafnarstræti 16	D3
				Open Mon-Fri 10-16	
				Tveir Hrafnar Baldursgata 12	G4
				Open Fri-Sat 13-16	
				Wind & Weather Window Gallery Hverfisgata 37	E5



A



ELEGANT PREMISES  
IN THE HEART OF  
REYKJAVIK

BREAKFAST and BRUNCH  
LUNCH and DINNER MENU  
LOCAL and FOREIGN DISHES  
HAPPY HOUR DAILY 15-18:00

SOLON

BISTRO • BAR

BANKASTRÆTI 7A • 101 REYKJAVÍK • TEL. 562 3232

S

THE  
SMART  
WAY

to plan your journey




Strætó

The official Icelandic  
public transport app



E





Laugavegur 60A, 101 Reykjavík

[himalayanspiceiceland.com](http://himalayanspiceiceland.com)

D

OPEN  
24/7

SUPER 1

DISCOUNT  
SUPERMARKET

HALLVEIGARSTIGUR 1

# The Map

Get the bigger, more detailed version of The Reykjavík Grapevine City Map at your nearest hotel or guesthouse, with selections from our Best-Of awards, vital info, downtown bus stops and a wider view of the city.

## Dining

### 1. Austur-Indíafjélagið

Hverfisgata 56

Still going strong twenty years on, Austur-Indíafjélagið is an institution. Make a meal of the delicate salmon pollichathu, kozhi mappas and kulchas and share it family style. Keep your eyes peeled for the vegetarian and vegan dishes as well.

### 2. Gaeta Gelato

Aðalstræti 6

Geta Gelato is owned by newly-arrived Italian transplants with nearly 25 years of experience as gelatai. Their artisanal and authentic flavours, from blueberry to Piedmontese hazelnut, are made with fresh and well-sourced Icelandic ingredients. Though only recently opened, Gaeta has already won over a crowd of committed regulars.

### 3. Sæta Svinið

Hafnarstræti 1-3

With big portions and a tasty menu, this hip restaurant offers everything you might desire, from juicy lent and big bowls of mussels to a great leg of lamb and a taste of minke whale. Try and get a seat upstairs: it'll be like dining under a starry sky in the most romantic, dim-lit set-up.

### 4. Valdís

Grandagarður 21 & Frakkastígur 10

This beloved ice cream parlour—which has a Grandi and downto location—makes everything in-house each morning, and you can tell. If you like liquorice, try Tyrkisk Peber. While it looks like liquid cement, it tastes more heavenly. The spot doesn't have a large seating area, so take your cone on a stroll along the harbour—or enjoy it in a parked car—Icelandic style.

### 5. Bastard Brew & Food

Vegamótastígur 4

This downtown drinking hole is something of a beer and bar-food palace. It's an English pub style environment, without the sense of history—everything from the tables to the plush leather seating are catalogue-fresh—but with eleven beers on tap, a great happy hour, and the phenomenally good 'Fat Bastard' burger on offer, it's a firm Grapevine favourite. Their tacos are pretty notable too.

### 6. Noodle Station

Laugavegur 103

Billowing clouds of coriander scent are a mouth-watering introduction to Noodle Station. Choose beef, vegetable or chicken, and add an extra spice or flaky chilli sauce until your nose runs, your tongue throbs and your gums howl. It's bar-style stool seating and cheaper prices (for Reykjavík) attract prudent solo travellers.

### 7. Grandi Mathöll

Grandagarður 16

Grandi Mathöll has an immediately comfortable feel, with various stools, benches and couches scattered through the space. There are nine concessions and a bustling, social feel as people meander between the vendors, who shout out names as their orders are ready. Our tip: Vegan food from Spes and friend chicken from KÖRE. Everyone's happy!

### 8. Vitabar

Bergþórugata 21

This old-school burger 'n' beer joint is right downtown—near Sundhöllin—but feels like a real neighbourhood bar. Its unassuming exterior hides a cosy, no-frills dining room, where you'll mostly be surrounded by locals. For once.

### 9. Salka Valka

Skólavörðustígur 23

For a piece of good ol' Icelandic fish, there's no better spot than Salka Valka. The restaurant serves up a steamed fillet in their Fish Of The Day meal, with the fish options depending on what is the freshest available. They also have potentially the best plockfiskur in the city, some steller soups, and—quite recently—a pizza menu.

### 10. Bæjarins Beztu

Tryggvagata 1

Icelanders have a weird obsession with hot dogs—trust us, you won't understand until you've been here. It's universally agreed though that the tiny stand Bæjarins Beztu serves the best one. Pro-Tip: When they ask what toppings you want, say "All." This is the only way to eat it.

## Drinking

### 11. Röntgen

Hverfisgata 12

Röntgen a party bar in the purest sense, with a rowdy dance floor, delicious cocktails and a fanbase

that's just growing and growing. Run by the legends behind Húrra (RIP), Röntgen unexpectedly grabbed the runner-up for the Best Goddamn Bar category at the 2020 Best Of Reykjavík awards. We stan.

### 12. Lebowski Bar

Laugavegur 20a

This fully carpeted bar honouring the "Lebowski" Lebowski (not The Dude, man,) is a nice place that offers two vibes: start the night nice and cosy with an artisinal White Russian, and end it on one of the rowdiest and most underrated dance floors int eh city. Yup, Lebowski is a great place to hang at, but that could just be, like, our opinion man.

### 13. Jungle Cocktail Bar

Austurstræti 9

The verdant Jungle Cocktail Bar came in like a tropical storm this winter. Devoted to the elevation of all things cocktail culture, some of Jungle's stranger offerings over the past months have included a kale cocktail, but there's no shortage of level-headed concoctions like the signature "The Bombshell" (tequila, rhubarb, vermouth) along with any classic you can name.

### 14. Port 9

Veghúsarstígur 9

Cosy and tucked away with a secretive vibe, Port 9 is a true hidden gem, hosting a delicious wine list as well as potentially the most intimate atmosphere in Reykjavík. It also has a nice balcony—the ideal locale for sipping some Pino in the summer sun.

### 15. Mengi

Óðinsgata 2

Mengi's concert room is more white cube than dive bar. The programme encourages new collaborations and experimental performances, so even if you know and love the work of the musicians you're seeing, you might be treated to something brand new on any given night.

### 16. Luna Flórens

Grandagarður 23

Luna Flórens is Iceland's only "gypsy bar." Part flower-child, part spiritual and with a whole lot of whimsy thrown into the mix, this cosy and hand-crafted bar is so intimate it makes you wanna spend the day musing about geodes, lunar cycles and tarot card readings. You can do all this and more while sipping on their excellent house cocktails and an excellent slice of vegan cake.

### 17. RVK Brewing Company

Skipholt 31

Yes, there is a bar on Skipholt, and yes, it is one that you need to check out. The RVK Brewing Company has

slid under the radar since it opened, but now, we're here to bring it out of the shadows. The brewery and beer hall offers a varied list of brews, most of which they make themselves locally. Come and experience your new beer-addiction.

### 18. English Pub

Austurstræti 12

True to its name, the English Pub offers many different kinds of lager on tap and a whiff of that genuine UK feel. Try the famous "wheel of fortune" where one can win up to a metre of beer with a single spin while a steady team of troubadours engage the crowd in classic sing-alongs every night. The only thing missing is the salt & vinegar crisps.

E



SHALIMAR

PAKISTANI CUISINE

AUSTURSTRÆTI 4, 101 REYKJAVÍK ☎ 551 0 292

ICELANDIC Fish, Lamb & Chicken in original PAKISTANI curries

[www.shalimar.is](http://www.shalimar.is)

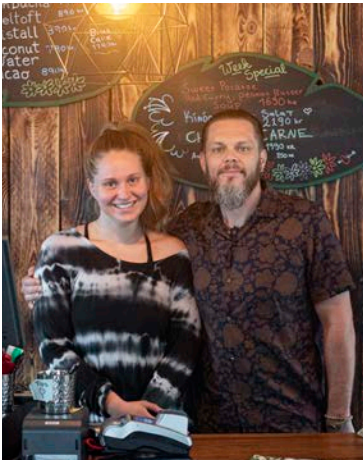
Tandoori dishes & Nan breads

Kebabs, Samosas & Vegetarian specialities





### New In Town ☆



### Mama Laugavegur 2

Nothing tastes better than ethics, which is why we can't wait to try the rainbow salad and "nicecream" bowls at Mama, a plant-based restaurant with big dreams. The company is proudly environmentalist—they hope to use their profits to invest into land so that the kitchen can become self-sufficient. The restaurant also doubles as a wellness space offering a whole host of yoga sessions and breathing workshops. Have your plant-based prayers been answered? **PA** 🌱

## Shopping

### 19. Hildur Yeoman

Skólavörðustígur 22b

As well as selling her own designs—womenswear characterised by flowing shapes made from fine fabrics with colourful, distinctive, busy prints—Hildur Yeoman's boutique also features sunglasses by Le Specs, jewelry by Vanessa Mooney, French tea, and other interesting trinkets.

### 20. nomad.

Frakkastígur 8f

A relative newbie to the Laugavegur

scene, nomad. was a surprise runner-up for the Best Design Store at the 2020 Best of Reykjavik awards. They have a fantastically curated selection of books, lamps, candles and more. Plus, the owner is a photographer and often has exhibitions on the lower floor.

### 21. Wasteland Reykjavik

Ingólfsstræti 5

For super á la mode downtown Reykjavik looks—i.e. cheerleader uniforms, Guy Fieri t-shirts, and astronaut-esqe jumpsuits—this second-hand store is the go-to.

### 22. Lucky Records

Rauðarárstígur 10

Lucky Records is the punky, underground horse of the Reykjavik scene. It's one of those shops that is easy to get lost in—expect to easily spend an entire afternoon perusing their selection.

### 23. Melabúðin

Hagamel 39, 107

For foodies looking for artisanal deli meats, fresh figs, rare cheeses and all sorts of unexpected, hard-to-find treats, Vesturbær's beloved Melabúðin should satiate your desires.

### 24. Pastel Flower Studio

Baldursgata 36

Pastel Flower studio is only open

on Fridays from 13:00 to 18:00—so plan accordingly. The studio uses cut, dried, and fresh flowers to create unique arrangements that reference classic Icelandic nature in an unexpected and innovative way. Trust us: You won't find a florist in the city that's in anyway comparable.

### 25. Street Rats Tattoo

Hverfisgata 37

Kristófer, a.k.a. Sleepofer Tattoo, has proven himself to be a fresh, experimental artist whose works have become a somewhat coveted symbol in the city. So if you're looking to get your travel tattoo, go there. It's way more interesting than a Vegvisir.



Party Every Night. Cocktails!  
Live Music. Live Sports Coverage  
50 different kinds of beer.  
Kitchen open from 11.00.  
Ribs - Burgers. Chicken Wings!

# AMERICAN BAR

REYKJAVÍK

AUSTURSTRÆTI 8 • REYKJAVÍK





# ~ WHALE ~ HELLO THERE

DAILY TOURS - EXPERIENCE WHALE WATCHING WITH THE PROS



WHALE  
WATCHING



PUFFIN  
WATCHING



SEA  
ANGLING



COMBO  
TOURS

BOOK NOW

✉ [ELDING@ELDING.IS](mailto:ELDING@ELDING.IS)  
☎ +354 519 5000  
✉ [ELDING.IS](http://ELDING.IS)



TRACK BY TRACK

# ‘Otito’ by snny

Return to your roots on this ethereal EP

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photo: **POND Creative**

Album

Streaming on all platforms now.

Ivory Coast-born, U.S.-raised, Reykjavík-transplant snny serves up a melange of synthy goodness in his newest EP ‘Otito’.

1. Abidjan

“Abidjan” is an ode to the city I was born in. I actually wrote it right before I went back there for the first time in 18 years. The song embodies the feeling of what I hoped the city would be—of being reunited with my cousins and friends, running the streets with them, and just having fun and playing music. It was also a test. I made the song, then I wanted to go there and see if it was the same feeling, and it was. It was pretty surreal. The song is a perfect snapshot of everything for me—my childhood, leaving Abidjan, growing up in the States, going back, but no matter what, still being rooted there.

2. Somewhere in Brooklyn

“Somewhere in Brooklyn” is a sad

song people can dance to—I think those are the best songs. It’s a love story that went wrong. You know when you’re in a relationship that you know is going to end, but instead of it ending poorly, you’re both mature enough to accept that and rejoice in it? Maybe it’s the last dance you have together in your apartment in the summer. You’re not sad, you’re happy because it was beautiful.

3. User Not Found

“User Not Found” is what I envision pre-internet life was, you know, when you would play with your friends all summer and some kids would move away and some kids you never saw again but you had no way to contact them, no way to text them. This is before all of that existed.

4. Sideways

This was one of the first songs I wrote on the project. One to test the waters and push myself sonically. I was watching ‘Castaway’ and I thought, “Man, there’s a song here.” I pictured someone on a re-

# TASTE THE BEST OF ICELAND



## ICELANDIC GOURMET FEAST

**Starts with a shot of the infamous Icelandic spirit Brennivín**

**Followed by 7 delicious tapas**

- Smoked puffin with blueberry “brennivín” sauce
- Icelandic Arctic Charr with peppers-salsa
- Lobster tails baked in garlic
- Pan-fried line caught blue ling with lobster sauce
- Icelandic lamb with beer-butterscotch sauce
- Minke Whale with cranberry & malt sauce

**And for dessert**

- White chocolate “Skyr” mousse with passion coulis

**8.990 KR.**

### LATE NIGHT DINING

Our kitchen is open until **23:30** on weekdays and **01:00** on weekends



TAPASBARINN | Vesturgata 3B | Tel: 551 2344 | [tapas.is](http://tapas.is)

“Maybe it’s the last dance you have together in your apartment in the summer. You’re not sad, you’re happy because it was beautiful.”

mote island trying to radio out to their girlfriend, their loved ones, and what that sounded like.

5. Pink Lemonade

“Pink Lemonade” is a letter to my parents. Their relationship ended early; they got divorced but were always on good terms. So the song is bittersweet. The fact that their love remains strong even when apart—it’s something beautiful to witness as a kid.

6. Better to Leave It

I wrote this in LA. There were three of us living in a tiny one bedroom apartment and it was the worst time for me. I got caught up in LA life and I had to make the executive decision to leave. For me, if a situation is toxic enough, it’s better to leave it.

7. The Kids Are Getting Old

We have this tendency to get overwhelmed with growing up, especially as an artist. You can feel like everyday is 100 years, and maybe you envisioned yourself to be at A but you’re still at 0.5 and then you compare yourself to others and have regrets. It’s a snowball effect, so “The Kids Are Getting Old” is just a campfire song to all my friends that are still artists who are still trying to put their message out in the world. Yeah, the kids are getting old but with that comes a vast spreadsheet of experience and knowledge. There’s beauty in that. 🍷

[gpv.is/music](http://gpv.is/music)  
Share this + Archives



# Music



Dymbrá are often described as "smooth criminals"

## Content In The Darkness

Teen trio Dymbrá’s mystical new album

Words: **Nico Borbely** Photo: **Art Bicnick**

### Album

Streaming on all platforms.

The Dymbrá girls seem right at home posing on the grassy field and between the trees beside Ásmundarsalur, smartly clad in coordinating outfits of sleek cobalt fabric of the sort that they often make when performing or appearing as a group. Made up of Menntaskólinn við Hamrahlíð schoolmates Eir Ólafsdóttir on cello, Nína Sólveig Andersen on violin, and Eyrún Úa Þorbjörnsdóttir on flute, the teen trio recently released an eponymous debut album consisting of elegant, ethereal instrumentals with occasional hauntingly beautiful Icelandic vocals. “We wanted to create a feeling and an atmosphere based on what we feel inside more so than specific words or messages of ours,” Nína explains.

### The kind of darkness that hugs you

Nína, Eyrún and Eir characterize their musical inspirations and influences as mainly sentimental and intuitive in nature. “A lot of the music is inspired by feelings we felt at times of great change,” Eyrún explains. “We wrote [it] when we were finishing grunnskóli and Eir was moving to Spain for a year.” Eir comes up with the apt characterisation of “experimental modern classic, tranquil, mystical, a bit dark” to describe Dymbrá’s music to the uninitiated. “But not depressing darkness,” she clarifies with a chuckle; “content darkness, the kind of darkness that hugs you.” “I would also say that it highlights the difference between darkness and light,” Nína adds. “When you’re a teenager, everything seems so big and important, but even just a few months later you laugh at yourself for having been so dramatic,” adds Eir, in a gentle Irish brogue, which she explains she acquired from an Irish neighbor during her exchange in

Spain. “Which is why we chose not to have the vocals as the main part of the song,” Eyrún continues. Eir nods. “People can relate to the feeling without necessarily needing to put words to what was going on in our heads,” she posits in agreement. The album’s second song “Dulbrá” is a comprehensive example of this. Beginning with flourishes of piano, it transitions into a section of harmonious vocals articulated almost in a gentle whisper. After a moment of slight musical clash, the piano combines with rich cello and finishes on an elegant violin high note. Airy and multilayered, the song is very much true to Dymbrá’s other-worldly sound.

### From Músiktilraunir to the big time

Though Dymbrá’s release concert at the National Gallery on June 20th was certainly a big and exciting event, the girls have quickly become experienced performers. They made it to the finals of the Icelandic Music Experiments (Músiktilraunir) contest and they were originally set to participate in this year’s competition, but it was delayed due to the pandemic. “We’re writing new songs, we want to move further and try something a bit different,” comments Nína in regards to their upcoming goals and plans. “All the songs on our debut album were written two years ago; as we’ve gotten better at playing our respective instruments and our voices have matured a bit, the new ones are bound to be a bit different,” Eyrún and Eir chime in together. A goal of theirs would be to have their music featured in film soundtracks in the future. “We don’t need to do something new just for the sake of developing a sound that people will recognize as ours,” Eyrún and Eir conclude. “We just try new things that we like so we can change things up while still staying true to ourselves and our musical roots.” 🐾



### MUSIC NEWS

Film buffs—basically anyone with good taste—will be familiar with Icelandic composer **Atli Örvarsson**. Atli has spent the last 15 years living the LA dream, but recently he returned home to the icy climes of Akureyri. The result? **His first solo album, ‘You Are Here’**. Inspired by the majesty of Eyjafjörður, Atli blessed our ears with 36 minutes of swelling piano melodies interwoven with effortlessly graceful cello. What’s more, the album’s centrepiece, “Breathing” is accompanied by a sublime music video. Shot by Blair Alexander in the empty Harpa concert hall back when Iceland was at the peak of its COVID-19 outbreak, the video perfectly captures the record’s bittersweet beauty. Our expectations for Atli’s album were sky-high, and he’s exceeded them.



**Björk’s back, baby!** That’s right, everyone’s go-to Icelandic pop culture reference and unofficial queen of kooky headpieces will be gracing the floorboards of Harpa with **four weekend performances this summer in collaboration with Iceland Airwaves**. Björk will be playing unplugged, accompanied by some of Iceland’s greatest classical ensembles. Unfortunately, tickets for the live performance are now sold-out—apparently Björk’s kind of a big deal, who knew? But fear not if you missed out on a chance at seeing the real-deal, the event will be live-streamed. Maybe they’ll add another date though...



Just when you thought **Myrkfælni** couldn’t get cooler, the underground Icelandic music mag **launched its own record label**. And their first band? None other than **Holdgervlar**—Reykjavík’s best-dressed post-goth darkwave duo. Music lovers can expect three releases before the end of 2020. “Excited” just doesn’t capture our true feelings. The label also announced the fourth iteration of their beloved **Myrkfælni compilations**. So far, it’ll feature works by **MSEA, AfterpartyAngel, Ægir, Captain Syrup, GRÓA, Korter í flog, SPÜNK, RYBA** and more. **PA**



# We're back!

Now open  
5 - 11 pm  
every day

Happy Hour  
5 - 8 pm

Our weekly events are back!

Soulflow Comedy  
every Monday at 8 pm

Karaoke Party  
every Tuesday at 7 pm

Stay tuned on our website  
[www.gaukurinn.is](http://www.gaukurinn.is)  
and on Facebook  
for all the exciting concerts  
and events that are  
coming up!

Tryggvagata 22, 101 Reykjavík

See you soon

VÍKING  
BRUGGHÚS



Our Picks



Special-K ‘LUnatic thirST’ Release Party ★

July 17th - 20:00 - Mengi - 2,000 ISK

Katrín Helga  
Andrésdóttir a.k.a. Special-K has finally found time in her crazily busy schedule to celebrate her latest avant-garde pop offering and we couldn’t be more excited. ‘LUnatic thirST’ is Katrín’s most intimate recording to date, seeing her

soar to new realms of musical, lyrical and emotional maturity. As she puts it, if her debut album “‘I Thought I’d Be More Famous By Now was a teenager’, this EP is an adult”. Head over to Mengi for a night of “depresso pop bangers” and experimental lo-fi delights. Still not convinced? Well, Special-K will be joined by none other than experimental hip-hop trio, CYBER. Seriously, get your arses on down to Mengi, you won’t regret it. **PA**



Ólöf Arnalds & Skúli Sverrisson: Summer Show ★

July 22nd - 21:00 - Nordic House

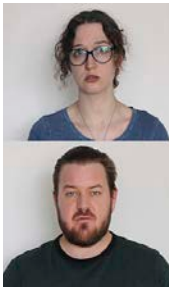
This duo serve up chilled vibes and captivating vocals. Forget 2020. **HJC**



Emmsjé Gauti ★

July 18th - 20:00 - Gamla Bíó - 2,990-3,990 ISK

One of Reykjavík’s OG hip-hop artists, Emmsjé Gauti is finally releasing a new album entitled ‘Bleikt Ský’. His newest single “Vandamál” is a straight up banger, but that’s not surprising, as we’ve had “Reykjavík” stuck in our heads perpetually since 2016. He’s too good. **SPO**



Crapapella Live ★

July 30th - 20:00 - Tjarnarbíó

Did you miss Jono Duffy or Kimi Tayler at Fringe? Don’t worry, you can still catch their awful acapella group. **HJC**



Eistnaflug: Rokk Á Spot ★

July 17th-18th - 18:00 - Spot - 6,900 ISK

This two-day musical celebration of doom and decay brings a mélange of metal acts that haven’t played locally in an eternity. Misþyrming, The Vintage Caravan, and Une Misère are just a few of the big names you won’t wanna miss. **SPO**

July 17th—August 13th

Concerts & Nightlife

Events listed are all live performances, shows and DJs. Venues are listed by day. For complete listings and detailed information on venues visit [grapevine.is/happening](http://grapevine.is/happening). Send your listings to: [listings@grapevine.is](mailto:listings@grapevine.is).

**Friday July 17th**

★ **Special-K ‘LUnatic thirST’ Release Party**  
20:00 Mengi

★ **Eistnaflug: Rokk Á Spot**  
18:00 Spot

**Gísli Pálmi**  
19:00 Prikið

**Ásta**  
17:00 12 Tónar

**Múlinn Jazz Club:**  
**ASA Trio With Jóel Pálsson**  
20:00 Harpa

**Velvet Villain**  
20:00 Gaukurinn

**Thorgerdur Johanna**  
19:00 Bravó

**Saturday July 18th**

★ **Emmsjé Gauti**  
20:00 Gamla Bíó

★ **Eistnaflug: Rokk Á Spot**  
18:00 Spot

**Reykjavik Live: Eyvi, Carla Rose, Benni b2b Máni, TTT, KrBear & Sam Vise**  
16:00 Dillon

**Álfheiður Erla**  
17:00 Harpa

**Weirdcore**  
19:00 Bravó

**Food Market**  
10:00 Mosskógar Camping Iceland

**Graphics Workshop**  
13:00 Nordic House

**Listahátið í Reykjavík:**  
**Open Circus Training Session**  
20:00 Iðnó

**Sunday July 19th**

**Unnur Sara**  
15:00 Nordic House

**Vinyl Sunday**  
19:00 Bravó

**KIMI**  
16:00 Dómkirkjan

**Listahátið í Reykjavík:**  
**Open Circus Training Session**  
15:00 Iðnó

**Listahátið í Reykjavík:**  
**Juggling Jam!**  
20:00 Iðnó

**Reykjavik Live: Ísold Wilberg, Ateria, Orang Volante & More**  
16:00 Dillon

**Monday July 20th**

**Soulflow: Women & Queer Open-Mic Comedy Show**  
20:00 Gaukurinn

**Tuesday July 21st**

**Karaoke Party!**  
20:00 Gaukurinn

**Wednesday July 22nd**

★ **Ólöf Arnalds & Skúli Sverrisson**  
21:00 Nordic House

**Board Game Night**  
19:00 Prikið

**Luana Schwengber**  
19:00 Bravó

**Swimming Pool Party: DJ Egill Spégill**  
19:00 Sundhöllin

**All You Can Eat Wings Wednesday**  
All Day, BrewDog Reykjavík

**Thursday July 23rd**

**Auður**  
17:00, 21:00 Gamla Bíó

**Reykjavik Safari: Culture Walk In 8 Languages**  
20:00 Reykjavík City Library

**Pub Quiz**  
21:00 Stúdentakjallarinn

**Dumplings Night!**  
17:00 Makake Restaurant

**DJ Einar Sonic**  
19:00 Bravó

**Pop-Up Market**  
16:00 Skúlagata 13

**Hafnarhús Free Thursdays!**  
17:00 Hafnarhús

**Friday July 24th**

**Reykholt Chamber Music Festival: Opening Concert**  
20:00 Reykholtskirkja

**Godchilla**  
17:00 12 Tónar

**Múlinn Jazz Club:**  
**MOVE Quartet**  
20:00 Harpa

**Saturday July 25th**

**Reykjavik Goth Night: Plague Edition!**  
20:00 Gaukurinn

**Reykjavik Live: Vintage Caravan, Blóðmör, Volcanova & Rythmatik**  
16:00 Dillon

**Reykholt Chamber Music Festival: Choir Concert**  
16:00 Reykholtskirkja

**Reykholt Chamber Music Festival: Chamber Concert**  
20:00 Reykholtskirkja

**Sölvi Kolbeinsson & Magnús Trygvason Eliassen**  
17:00 Harpa

**Porsteinn Eyfjörð**  
20:00 Mengi

**DJ KGB**  
19:00 Bravó

**Sunday July 26th**

**Reykjavik Live: Dimma, Sindri Eldon And The Ways, Krummi & More**  
16:00 Dillon

**MIMRA**  
15:00 Nordic House

**Reykholt Chamber Music Festival: Closing Concert**  
16:00 Reykholtskirkja

**Vinyl Sunday**  
19:00 Bravó

**Rokk & Ról: Vintage Car Show**  
13:00 Árbær Open Air Museum

**Monday July 27th**

**Soulflow: Women & Queer Open-Mic Comedy Show**  
20:00 Gaukurinn

**Devil’s Karaoke Night**  
19:00 Bravó

**Tuesday July 28th**

**Karaoke Party!**  
20:00 Gaukurinn

**Wednesday July 29th**

**Board Game Night**  
19:00 Prikið

**DJ Óli Dóri**  
19:00 Bravó

**All You Can Eat Wings Wednesday**  
All Day, BrewDog Reykjavík

**Thursday July 30th**

**Crapapella Live**  
20:00 Tjarnarbíó

**Pub Quiz**  
21:00 Stúdentakjallarinn

**Dumplings Night!**  
17:00 Makake Restaurant

**Kraftgalli**  
19:00 Bravó

**Pop-Up Market**  
16:00 Skúlagata 13

**Hafnarhús Free Thursdays!**  
17:00 Hafnarhús

**Friday July 31st**

**Innipúkinn 2020**  
18:00 Gamla Bíó

**Múlinn Jazz Club:**  
**Sigurður Flosason Quartet**  
20:00 Harpa

**LaFontaine & Thaison**  
19:00 Bravó

**Saturday August 1st**

**Innipúkinn 2020**  
18:00 Gamla Bíó

**Reykjavik Live: Bensol**  
16:00 Dillon

**Sunday August 2nd**

**Innipúkinn 2020**  
18:00 Gamla Bíó

**Markús Bjarnason**  
13:00 Nordic House

**Reykjavik Live: Fox Train Safari, GG Blús & Rokky**  
16:00 Dillon

**Creative Garden**  
15:00 FRAKTAL Reykjavík

**Monday August 3rd**

**Soulflow: Women & Queer Open-Mic Comedy Show**  
20:00 Gaukurinn

**Tuesday August 4th**

★ **REYKJAVÍK PRIDE 2020!**  
Events all around town!

★ **Reykjavik Pride: #blacklivesmatter**  
12:00 The National Museum

**Karaoke Party!**  
20:00 Gaukurinn

**Listahátið í Reykjavík:**  
**NoShow / Fjarvera**  
15:00 Secret Location!

**Wednesday August 5th**

★ **REYKJAVÍK PRIDE 2020!**  
Events all around town!

**Acoustic Guided Tour**  
15:30 Harpa

**All You Can Eat Wings Wednesday**  
All Day, BrewDog Reykjavík

**Thursday August 6th**

★ **REYKJAVÍK PRIDE 2020!**  
Events all around town!

**Reykjavik Queer Choir**  
19:00 Frikirkjan

**Pub Quiz**  
21:00 Stúdentakjallarinn

**Dumplings Night!**  
17:00 Makake Restaurant

**Listahátið í Reykjavík:**  
**NoShow / Fjarvera**  
15:00 Secret Location!

**Hafnarhús Free Thursdays!**  
17:00 Hafnarhús

**Friday August 7th**

★ **REYKJAVÍK PRIDE 2020!**  
Events all around town!

★ **Memoirs Of A Valkyrie**

19:00 Tjarnarbíó

**Reykjavik Pride Poetry Contest**  
17:00 Tjarnarbíó

**Múlinn Jazz Club:**  
**Brazilian Music With Ife Tolentino**  
20:00 Harpa

**Elja Ensemble**  
20:00 Háteigskirkja

**Saturday August 8th**

★ **REYKJAVÍK PRIDE 2020!**  
Events all around town!

★ **Pride Parade 2020**  
14:00 Reykjavík

**Reykjavik Live: Mighty Bear, Skaði, InZeros & Hans**  
16:00 Dillon

**Mindful Mantras: How Am I Feeling?**  
14:00 Nordic House

**Talking About Feelings With Babies: How Are You Feeling?**  
15:30 Nordic House

**Listahátið í Reykjavík:**  
**NoShow / Fjarvera**  
13:00 Secret Location!

**Pop-Up Market**  
12:00 Hönnunarsafn Íslands

**Sunday August 9th**

★ **REYKJAVÍK PRIDE 2020!**  
Events all around town!

**Björk Orkestral**  
17:00 Harpa

**Jelena Ciric**  
15:00 Nordic House

**Reykjavik Live: We Made God, Einar Scheving Quartet, Celeb & Exes**  
16:00 Dillon

**Family Fun On The Beach**  
13:30 Viðey Island

**Monday August 10th**

**Soulflow: Women & Queer Open-Mic Comedy Show**  
20:00 Gaukurinn

**Classical Pride Concert**  
20:30 Harpa

**Tuesday August 11th**

**Listahátið í Reykjavík:**  
**NoShow / Fjarvera**  
15:00 Secret Location!

**Wednesday August 12th**

**Ellen & Eypór**  
21:00 Nordic House

**Acoustic Guided Tour**  
15:30 Harpa

**All You Can Eat Wings Wednesday**  
All Day, BrewDog Reykjavík

**Thursday August 13th**

**Pub Quiz**  
21:00 Stúdentakjallarinn

**Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits**  
19:30 Harpa



i8

i8 Gallery  
Tryggvagata 16  
101 Reykjavík  
info@i8.is  
  
t: +354 551 3666  
www.i8.is

Beyond Human Time

**ÓLAFUR ELÍASSON**

25 June 2020 - 15 August 2020

Art

Find today's events in Iceland!  
Download our free listings app - APPENING on the Apple and Android stores

"These stories have always been with me."

VISIT KÓPAVOGUR

CULTURE HOUSES

AND EXPERIENCE

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

& ART MUSEUM

& PUBLIC LIBRARY

& CONCERT HALL

& MORE

CULTUREHOUSES.IS

Hamraborg 4-6 Kópavogur Bus 1, 2, 4, 28, 35 & 36

Female Heroes Of Icelandic Folk Tales

Solveig Thoroddsen brings the ancient to life

Words: Andie Sophia Fontaine Photo: Art Bienick

Exhibition

'Mer er um og ól' runs until August 15th at Gallerí Gróttu.

A woman jilted by a priest slits her own throat. A man discovers that his wife is actually a seal. A female troll kidnaps a man to be her lover. These are some of the weird and wonderful folk tales that Icelanders have been familiar with for ages. Reykjavík artist Solveig Thoroddsen, long a fan of Icelandic folk tales, has chosen a selection of them to depict in a new exhibition, 'Mér er um og ól' ("I am a bit startled!"), showing at Gallerí Gróttu until August 15th.

too. Re-reading them, I wanted to focus on the female characters in particular."

The choice of focus is hardly surprising. Female characters in Icelandic folklore are complex beings. They can be noble, flawed, unhinged, untamable and wild. Not just female humans, either; a lot of them involve female trolls, or other female supernatural beings.

"Even those who don't know these stories should be able to enjoy them. These are strong characters, absolute heroes."

**Sisters taking charge**

"In Icelandic folk-tales, the role of female characters certainly makes a strong impression," she says. "They are lovesick, wild, mystical, desperate, gentle, strong, wise and resourceful. They are doers and initiators, in their own lives and in [the lives of] others. They also appear as victims of social conditions and situations but, without exception, respond to those conditions in an effective manner."

Some of the folk tales are down-

right fantastical, such as the tale of Selsahamurinn. In this story, a man hears a party going on outside a cave and sees a bunch of seal skins laying on the ground just outside it. He takes one home and locks it in a chest. Later, he discovers a young naked woman crying outside, and takes her home to be his wife. However, one day he misplaces the key to the chest, and he returns to see her transforming into a seal and swimming away with a song in her heart.

Other stories hit a bit closer to home, such as 'Móðir mín í kvíkví', which recounts the story of a woman driven mad by the ghost of her own baby that she had left out to die of exposure. As cruel as it sounds, it was actually common practice centuries ago for unwed women to do this, rather than face the punishment that inevitably followed having a child out of wedlock.

**The ghost and the troll**

Other female character who appears include ghosts, foxes and trolls. As the common thread of female characters runs through all of these works, the media they are represented in varies greatly: there are paintings, sculptures, embossed wood, monotypes and more.

"I always think visually, and want to create an atmosphere for the viewer to experience," Solveig says. "And it all comes together when these works are together in one place. I hope that anyone visiting the exhibition can feel this atmosphere, become imbued with this mystic feeling. Even those who don't know these stories should be able to enjoy them. These are strong characters, absolute heroes."



Our Picks



★ The Factory

Until Sept. 14th - Djúpvík & Pingeyri

Djúpvík is, without question, one of the most stunning and memorable locations in all of Iceland. An almost-abandoned fishing village on the wild Strandir coast, it

was once home to hundreds of fishermen who lived scattered around a massive, hulking fish processing factory. When the herring left, so did the people; today, the workers' quarters have been repurposed into a cosy family-run hotel. The factory has become a crumbling labyrinth of rusting machinery, a small museum, and—each summer—a contemporary art exhibition. A monument to a herring-era gold rush, 'The Factory' is a roadmap of how such buildings can be used to foster community, culture and tourism. On the other side of the Westfjords, there will be a sister exhibition in Pingeyri. Better yet, admission to both is free. **TRG**



★ After All

Until Aug. 23rd - Gerðarsafn Kópavogur Art Museum

Twelve contemporary Icelandic artists show their take on everyday beauty, light and humour in reflection of the present situation in the world and what really drives and matters to us. **CM**



★ Witness: Christopher Lund

Until Sept. 13th - Reykjavik Museum of Photography

'Witness' intends to showcase the side of Iceland that wants to be discovered and explored and put its visitor, the traveller, the tourist in contrast but also in connection to the striking landscapes. **CM**



★ Hafnarhús' Free Thursdays!

Thursdays - 17:00-22:00 - Hafnarhús

Nothing gets us going like the sweet sweet taste of free art. Forget aperol spritzes in Fjallkonan, this summer we're slurping up some fresh exhibits. Ah yes. Culture. **PA**

July 17th—August 13th

Art Listings

Events are listed by venue. For complete listings and detailed information on venues, visit [grapevine.is/happening](http://grapevine.is/happening). Send your listings to: [listings@grapevine.is](mailto:listings@grapevine.is)

Opening

**REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - HAFNARHÚS**  
**Gilbert & George: The Great Exhibition**  
For over five decades, British artist duo Gilbert & George have shaped contemporary art. At this special exhibition, come challenge the prevailing bourgeois ideas of taste and decorum while empowering gays and other minority groups. What else could you want?  
• Opens on August 6th, 2020  
• Runs until January 3rd, 2021

Ongoing

**NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND**  
**Solastalgia**  
In this immersive installation, explore a mix of augmented reality with contemporary art, multisensorial effects and cutting edge sound design. Enter a mysterious future in a post-human Earth where only a mysterious digital cloud has survived. Do you still have faith in technology? (No.)  
• Runs until January 10th, 2021  
**Treasures Of A Nation**  
A selection of over 80 works chosen from the national gallery's collection displays the evolution of art since the 19th century.  
• Runs until October 4th, 2020  
**High Plane VI**  
Katrín Sigurðardóttir has for some years been exploring the effects of perception in her installations and works. Here, she dismantles a classic theme of Icelandic paintings: mountains, the blue of distant vistas, and the obsession with Icelandic nature.  
• Runs until January 3rd, 2021  
**Mats Gustafson**  
Swedish artist Mats Gustafson has always had a special feeling for the transient nature of watercolour. This exhibition contains all his best-known works, including ones made with fashion houses Dior, Yohji Yamamoto, Comme des Garçons, and more.  
• Runs until August 30th, 2020  
**Electromagnetic Objects**  
The "Electromagnetic Objects" are a collection of works by Woody Vasulka and the audio artist Brian O'Reilly. According to O'Reilly, "the works use sources excavated directly from the output of the Electromagnetic

Objects, as well as further manipulations using Tom Demeyer's ImX software, developed with input from Steina." Sounds complicated, but we still stan.  
• Runs until December 31st. 2020

**EINAR JÓNSSON MUSEUM**  
**Permanent Exhibition**  
The museum contains close to 300 artworks including a beautiful garden with 26 bronze casts of the artist's sculptures.

**REYKJAVÍK CITY MUSEUM**  
**Settlement Exhibition**  
As Viking ruins meet digital technology, this exhibition provides insight into Reykjavík's farms at the time of the first settlers.

**REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - ÁSMUNDARSAFN**  
**Ásmundur Sveinsson: Under the Same Sky**  
Ásmundarsafn is named after sculptor Ásmundur Sveinsson. This new permanent exhibition presents the artist in a new light. What dialogue does his works provoke?  
• Runs until September 30th, 2020  
**Ásmundur For Families**  
Children get free entry to learn about Ásmundur Sveinsson, after whom the museum is named.  
• Runs until September 30th, 2020

**REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY**  
**Witness**  
The photographic exhibition Witness is opening in unusual times, when its subject has temporarily disappeared. The visitor, in Iceland to see cascading waterfalls, advancing glaciers and surf crashing on the shore, is absent. Iceland's nature is alone once more.  
• Runs until September 13th, 2020  
**Obscure Presence**  
Coming from a small isolated island with extreme weather conditions and almost unearthly landscapes, Icelanders have a unique connection with the unknown. Here, Gunnlöð Jóna Rúnarsdóttir explores that unique connection.  
• Runs until August 16th, 2020

**REYKJAVÍK MARITIME MUSEUM**  
**Fish & Folk**  
Name a better duo than fish and Iceland. You can't. So come learn

about the history of Icelandic fisheries from row boats to monstrous trawlers.  
**Melckmeyt 1659**  
Melckmeyt was a Dutch merchant ship that crashed near Flatey Island in 1659. Explore the wreck here. with two images of different origins against each other.

**MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART**  
**Paperflowers**  
The bookwork 'Paperflowers' was made by Rúna Porkelsdóttir over a period of two years on a Rotaprint machine at her studio in Amsterdam. In 2007, she along with Tao Kurihara made fabric inspired by the work, along with a summer collection using that.  
• Runs until September 6th, 2020  
**Sveinn Kjarval**  
This exhibition focuses on the pioneering work of Sveinn Kjarval, one of the most pioneering furniture makers and interior designers in the country. While many pieces have been lost in time, there will be photographs showing never-before-seen designs.  
• Runs until August 30th, 2020  
**Recycle Til You Drop Workshop**  
This project hopes to raise awareness about Icelanders' consumer culture and the amount that people donate to the Red Cross. In it, one tonne of clothing needs sorting. Afterwards, it'll need to be analysed and creatively altered. What information can be read from one tonne?  
• Runs until August 30th, 2020

**REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - HAFNARHÚS**  
**Erró: Cyborg**  
This series of the great Erró was inspired by technology, science and the combination of the human and the mechanic. In particular, it examines how technology invades the body and how the human body adapts to the machine. The images offer questions concerning the borderlines between human beings and technology.  
• Runs until December 31st, 2020  
**Sol LeWitt**  
This exhibition spans 30 years of the great American conceptual artist Sol LeWitt's career. In LeWitt's works, all the planning and decision-making for the execution of an artwork is made beforehand, and with that, as he said, "the idea becomes a machine that makes the art."  
• Runs until July 19th, 2020  
**Hafnarhús - Depot of Ideas in the City Centre**  
It's the 20th anniversary of Hafnarhús! Yay! This special exhibition focuses on the building and its history and transformation, viewed through sketches and photographs, among other things. It also examines how the museum building, as a space,

interacts with the art and connects to its environment, the city centre.  
• Runs until July 16th, 2020

**HAFNARBORG**  
**DesignMarch: material:wood**  
Wood is an organic matter that bends equally to the laws of nature and chance. It does not yield easily and the material itself often affects the final outcome, whether in regards to shape or finish. It also composes trees, which we like to hug.  
• Runs until August 23rd, 2020

**HVERFISGALLERÍ**  
**Houndshills, Houndshollows**  
Guðmundur Thoroddsen, for his exhibition, was inspired by a beer called 'Hundur', which means dog. "You can understand why they think it necessary for this thing to have a name, that it is named something," he wrote in the accompanying text. "If the beer has a name like Dog, then we can create a context in which to understand what it is we are imbibing."  
• Runs until August 1st, 2020

**WIND & WEATHER WINDOW GALLERY**  
**Millihlustargátt / Auditory Intergate**  
Freyja Eilíf—a favourite of the Grapevine—serves up a site-specific mixed-medium installation made of wood, paint and clay. In it, abstract shapes in shades of green coalesce to make an aesthetic dream. Remember: The window is open all day, everyday, so stop by.  
• Runs until August 27th, 2020

**REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - KJARVALSSTAÐIR**  
**Jóhannes S. Kjarval: At Home**  
Jóhannes Sveinsson Kjarval (1885-1972) was one of the pioneers of

Icelandic art (the museum is literally named after him) and is one of the country's most beloved artists. His connection to, and interpretation of Iceland's natural environment is thought to have taught Icelanders to appreciate it anew, and to have encouraged pride in the country's uniqueness and the world of adventure to be discovered within it.  
• Runs until December 31st, 2020  
**What It Seems - Reality on Canvas 1970-2020**  
Many painters seek to achieve an impression of realism in their works. But is everything what it seems in paintings made in a realistic style? We don't know, that's why they made an exhibit about it.  
• Runs until October 4th, 2020

**LIVING ART MUSEUM**  
**New Acquisitions**  
This new exhibition presents a selection of The Living Art Museum's newest acquisitions from the past three years. Artworks on display span across 50 years of the Icelandic contemporary art scene, demonstrating the skill and invention of pivotal artists. Note: There will be a special artist talk on July 30th.  
• Runs until August 9th, 2020

**MIDPUNKT**  
**Shapeless Vibrations**  
A shapeless object is paradoxical as it means that said object is deprived of any shape. That said, everything has a shape so what do we mean by shapelessness? Come explore this puzzling concept at this onsite installation by Claire Paugam and Valgerður Ýr Magnúsdóttir. Down with the shape-system!  
• Runs until July 26th, 2020

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

HÖNNUNARSAFN ÍSLANDS

Garðatorg 1 • Garðabær

Open Tue - Sun 12 - 17

www.honnunarsafn.is

Facebook icon @honnunarsafn

Exhibitions:

Paperflowers

by Rúna Porkelsdóttir

Behind the Scenes

Icelandic Visual Language

Sveinn Kjarval

Furniture and interior designer

Flokk till you drop

Designers in residence





# THE SWEETEST CENTURY

Since opening our bakery in 1920, we have constantly pushed the boundaries of traditional Icelandic baking methods. Find us in the heart of Reykjavik serving piping hot, fresh pastries made from scratch, every morning from seven-thirty AM.

Not a sweet tooth? That's OK. Come by for a savory brunch or taste one of our homemade sodas or craft beers.

EST. 1920

SANDHOLT

REYKJAVÍK

Laugavegur 36, 101 Reykjavík      www.sandholt.is

Books

Find today's events in Iceland! Download our free listings app - APPENING on the Apple and Android stores





Keepin' it hot non stop

# Rebecca, The Lord Of The Flings

Rebecca Scott Lord titilates with an anthology of world-famous celebrity erotica

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photo: **Adam Halaka**

"You're sitting here with the world-famous erotic novelist Rebecca Scott Lord," proclaims the newly-published performance artist-cum-comedian-cum-romance-writer Rebecca Scott Lord the moment the microphone turns on to record her interview. Rebecca's voice, velvety and smooth, promptly dissolves into brassy laughter the moment she finishes the world "Lord," and in an instant, the character of Rebecca Scott Lord, the world famous erotic novelist, is replaced by the real Rebecca Scott Lord, a cheeky, uninhibited Reykjavik-transplant and one of the city's brightest creators.

Rebecca, long known for her Fyndnustu mínar / FUNNYGURLZ comedy shows as well as her sojourns as DJ Daddy Issues, just released her first novel, 'Drenched Dreams,' a fantastical collection of sensual stories involving everyone from controversial billionaire Jeff Bezos to Iceland's favourite media personality Gísli Marteinn.

Rebecca—the person, not the character—began writing celebrity erotica as a feature in her stand-up acts. "I would read just an excerpt from the story, as if I was doing a book reading," she explains. "The first one was 'How Bobby Flayed Me,' which is about, as we know, the hottest chef on the Food Network, Bobby Flay, who has been in such programmes as 'Boy Meets Grill,' and 'Throwdown With Bobby Flay.'" The sarcasm in her voice is palpable, but you still get the sense she wouldn't refuse a night with Flay if offered.

"I know that nobody in Iceland knows who he is, but I remember saying, just look up a picture of Bobby Flay and you'll understand instantly what this story means," Rebecca explains. She was then surprised when, after the show, people approached her asking where they could buy the complete novel.

It was at that moment that the idea of 'Drenched Dreams' was born, and when the new publishing house Signatura Books approached her to produce the novel, it was, as Rebecca calls it, "a match made in heaven."

(Tease)rs

'Drenched Dreams' presents a collected anthology of (imaginary) world-famous erotic novelist Rebecca Scott Lord's work. "She's looking back at her career. She's written about everything, and for her, everything is erotic. The world pulses with lust," she explains, before addressing the elephant in the room: "We, Rebecca Scott Lord and I, just happen to have the same name."

The inspiration behind the structure came from old-school Harlequin romances, which Rebecca's grandmother's house was full of. "In the back, there's always a teaser for the next book, and there'd be a mail-in postcard to order it," Rebecca says. "'Drenched Dreams' is a compilation of teasers of her stories, but we also feature the covers of each book, which really add something. To see a ripped and sexy Jeff Bezos with the title, 'Amazon, Primal,' it's grotesque."

Pussy: the musical

With the publishing of 'Drenched Dreams' now behind her, the world-famous erotic novelist Rebecca Scott Lord plans on diving into the rocking world of Bret Michaels, the lead singer of Poison and star of VH1's famous 2000s reality show, 'Bret Michaels: Rock Of Love,' as well as present a sensual exploration into the mind—and body—of famed composer Andrew Lloyd Webber.

"[Webber] has been married three times, you know, just like Bobby Flay. He is erotic," Rebecca gushes. "The working title is 'Jellicle Boobs.'" 🐈





# Seven Peaks In Seven Days

How an almost 40-year-old man 🤔 and his trusty dog 🐕 climbed over 3,200 meters in a week 🤔

Words:  
Valur Grettisson

Photos:  
Valur Grettisson

Seven peaks in seven days, I decided. Why? Mostly to prove to myself that I could still beat the mountains which I had traversed so easily in my youth. In a way, I was looking to remind myself of who I once was. I missed the feeling of freedom one gets in the brisk air. (And I also had to get in shape before hiking Laugavegur, which you can read about on page 10.)

## Helgafell

338 m.

“We should just head for the bar, right?” I suggested to Polly, my odd but lovely border collie/dachshund mix. She looked back at me with a blank stare. Maybe she was right; we were there, in front of the steep hills of my childhood mountain, Helgafell, we had to at least make an honest attempt at a hike.

## The necklace

Helgafell directly translates to the “Holy Mountain” and was the first one I ever climbed as a child. I was ten, looking for some beautiful palagonite to turn into a necklace. I found one and gave it to my grandmother, Ólafía. She never wore it.

Today, although it was 15° C and sunny in the city, a slight rain fell on the mountain. Mountains have a way of bending the skies to their will, I thought as we began up.

In just a minute up the steep hills, I was out of breath. Truly, I was in bad shape. Polly, meanwhile, promptly ran up it before coming back down to check on me a few minutes later. “What was the holdup?” she asked with her wide brown eyes.

“Yeah, I know, my two legs aren’t as good as they used to be,” I almost whispered to spare my breath. She ventured back up.

## Palagonite finds a new owner

In almost an hour, we reached the top. At 21:00, there was a grey sky above me, but in the west, the red sun lingering over the ocean. I gave Polly water from my bottle and drank the rest myself. I

was spent.

“Only six mountains left,” I said to Polly, still trying to catch my breath. On the way down, I saw a relatively clean palagonite stone on the path. I picked it up and gave it to my younger son in the morning. He loved it.

## Móskarðshnúkar

807 m.

Móskarðshnúkar is a part of Esjan, which you could perhaps, in good faith, call a mountain chain. Furthest to the east, there is an odd, almost mysteriously bright top, a little bit lower than the rest of the chain. The brightness is not due to any mysterious godly light—as some might say—but actually because the stones up there are bright coloured schist.

## The system

At first, I felt energetic, but it quickly dawned on me that I was in over my head. To survive, I made a system: forty steps, then rest for five seconds. So I counted. One, two, 35, oh my god kill me now! Forty! Rest. Now—keep on going you idiot.

And so I repeated myself until I got to the top of a flat hill—not the summit—sweaty as a mule. From there I could see white clouds starting to form around the light brown top. Just seconds later, and the clouds had engulfed the summit. It looked ominous, but Polly didn’t mind. She just hiked on. So I followed her in good faith.

## It’s okay to be scared

The top was so steep and covered with such thick clouds that Polly decided to hike behind me for the first time in our adventures.

“It’s okay,” I told her out loud as I treaded the narrow path, only seeing at most 50 metres around me. “It’s okay to be scared,” I added, perhaps more to reassure myself than her. When we got to the top, I took a selfie and sent it to my girlfriend. She insisted on calling the rescue team.

## Esjan

900 m. ish

I was quite tired when I convinced Reykjavík Grapevine’s resident super-human, Art Bicnick, and our brilliant intern, Poppy Askham, to climb Esjan, cook a meal on the top and film it all. Keep in mind that some Icelanders run up and down this mountain—literally—so I thought, how hard could it be? I had, of course, climbed Esjan several times, so I did know that summiting the iconic Reykjavík landmark was a bit harder than it looked. But when it started to rain hail near the top, well, I thought, perhaps this was a bit harder than I thought.

## The bad eye

We did manage to climb to the top with the help of chains and Art Bicnick. Polly—not to be confused with the human Poppy—who was soaked by the rain, didn’t like it when I had to lift her and almost throw her onto a higher ledge. She gave me a dirty look afterwards.

“You looked like you needed a hand,” I told her apologetically. She didn’t respond.

Yet, we made it. And we cooked a ridiculous meal out of baked beans, bread and cheese. You can see the video on our Youtube channel, if you dare.

## Úlfarsfell

211 m.

I was in surprisingly good shape after Esjan and immediately felt the need to climb something—the mountain bug, eh? I had climbed over 2,000 meters in three days at this point, so I decided to hike Úlfarsfell, the big odd mountain in Mosfellsbær, which looks like a submarine when viewed from the north.

## Direction or life choices?

I had hiked Úlfarsfell a couple of times before, but never really enjoyed it. It was too small, with too many joggers, sports idiots on mountain bikes, and Karens with walking sticks. That said,

it was a site small enough to give me a break from the intensity of the other mountains on my list, so it was a good choice for day four.

Polly and I found a sign in the small woods, just minutes after we started hiking, explaining that there were three options at Úlfarsfell: Not to climb the mountain and just linger in the woods, take the South “Easy” Path, or the Northern “Hard” Path. I stood there for a few seconds, feeling like this was about more than simple directions—it was a life choice.

## Going in, hard!

“We’re going hard, aren’t we?” I asked Polly. She wagged her tail and showed me her teeth; her odd way of smiling and being friendly, often confused with aggressiveness.

The hill was steep but short. I didn’t even feel my heartbeat rising. In but a few days, I was getting into good shape.

There isn’t really a mountain top to speak of on Úlfarsfell. Only a flat hill mostly covered with the highly controversial Alaska Lupins. I threw some balls for Polly into the purple fields, and she disappeared in the flowers briefly before returning with the ball for another round of fetch.

That said, the weather was beautiful and together, Polly and I sat on a bench on the south side of the mountain watching the sunset.

“We’re getting good at this,” I told her with a pat.

## Vífilsfell

655 m.

Vífilsfell is a tricky one. It was formed thousands of years ago in two different eruptions, which explain the odd shape of the mountain. The first half is just a merciless hike straight up the gravelly north side. My calves and thighs were in constant pain for half an hour, bringing me so close to despair that I restarted my counting system. I started with 40, but was soon down to just 20 steps between short pauses. Even Polly had trouble finding solid ground as we were sliding a little bit downwards with every step.

## Slave’s mountain

The mountain is named for a famous Icelandic slave, Vífill, who came to the island with the first Icelandic settler, Ingólfur Arnarson. The story goes that Vífill would climb this mountain every day to check on the weather. Later on, he became a free man and settled there at the now-named Vífilsstaðir, which lies in Garðabær, where Iceland’s 1% live today.

Continues ➡



# ICELANDIC SEAFOOD

makes world's best sushi



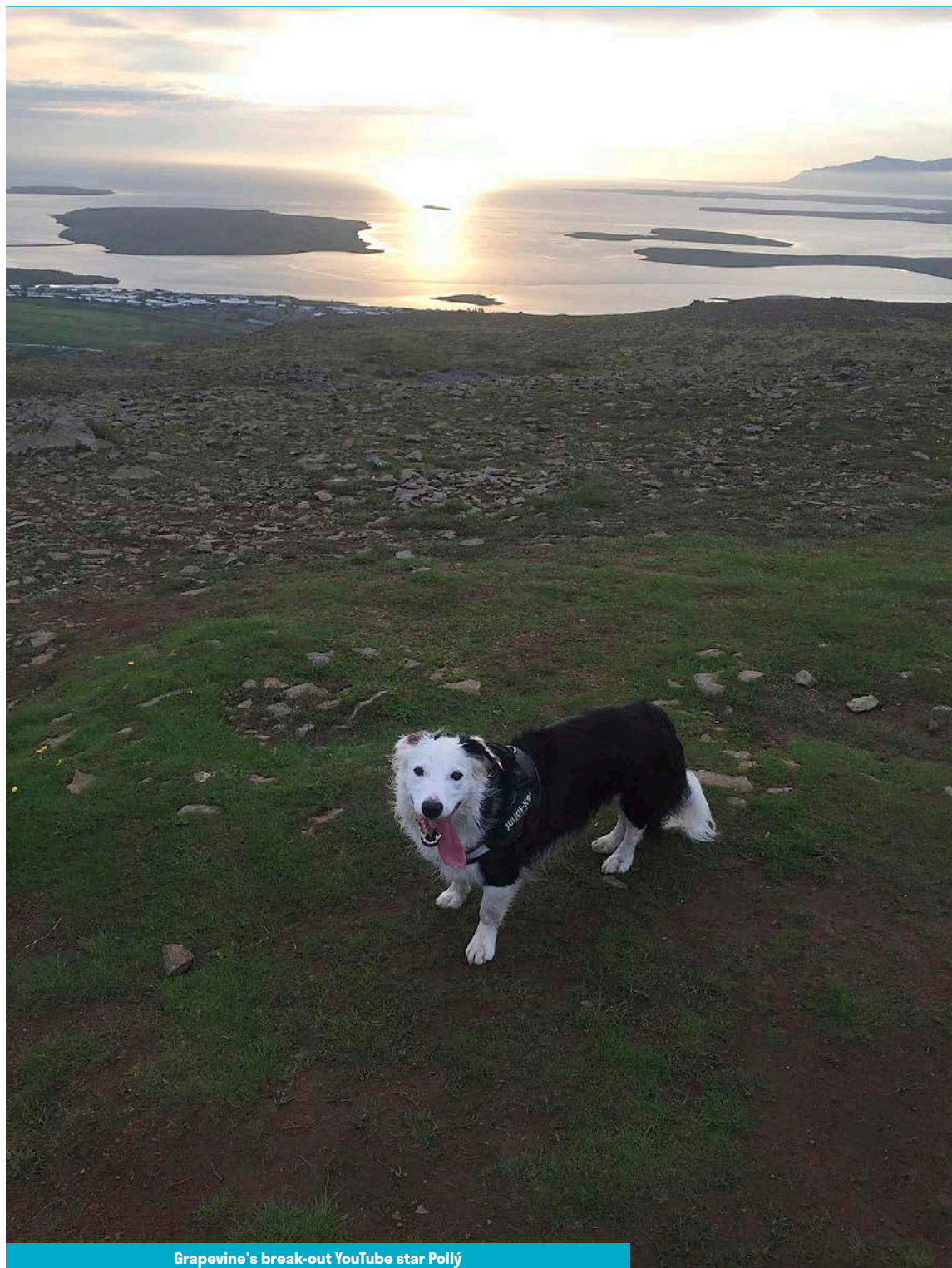
The best of Icelandic produce with a nod to Japan and South America. Modern Icelandic flavours, share plates and award winning cocktails.

**SOCIALIZE  
WITH THE  
LOCALS**



**Our kitchen is open**  
17.00–23.00 sun.–thu.  
17.00–24.00 fri.–sat.

**Sushi Social**  
Þingholtstraeti 5 • 101 Reykjavík  
Tel. 568 6600 • [sushisocial.is](http://sushisocial.is)



Grapevine's break-out YouTube star Polly

### Crawling fog, hidden top

It took me and Polly around fifteen minutes to walk up the flat rocky hill. Looking back, I immediately understood why Vífill chose to check the weather there. In front of me, a huge white fog crawled from Nesjavellir in the North. It didn't matter that currently, the sun was shining brightly over Reykjavík. Like I said before, these mountains have a way of bending the sky and weather to their will. It was officially a race. I would have to climb before the fog arrived.

The fog won. As we approached the top, we could no longer see the city, just the flat stones on the ground in front of us. It was like we were surrounded by fog machines or the breath of some ominous creature.

At this point, we reached our first chain, beautifully kept up by the Iceland Tourism Association. "You think you need help?" I asked Polly. In response, she jumped smoothly to one rock, then another. Impressive indeed.

Climbing up, I was greeted by an odd shape of an old troll standing out of a rock in front of me with white fog all around. Perhaps there is some legend about the troll of Vífilsfell, but I didn't really find anything on Google.

rest was easy. That said, I couldn't see much through the fog, even though the sun shone all around.

"This is the upside-down," I told Polly. She didn't understand a word and just looked at me blankly. I mean, what was I thinking? She wasn't even born when 'Stranger Things' was a thing.

#### Keilir

379 m.

Keilir is a fairly straightforward mountain. It's more about the hike, which journeys through grey lava carpeted by grey moss called Afstapahraun, which was flowing there in the 14th century. You can even see the edges of the lava, where it literally froze and became spikey, like a huge wave that just stopped in the middle of the air.

The area is now, once again, threatened by a volcano, Mount Þorbjörn, which geologists think could erupt any time now. If you were looking to watch the glorious devastation, I'd suggest the top of Keilir, truly.

Anyway, Polly and I got to the top of the mountain and back to the car in four hours. We were becoming naturals.

#### Hengill

803 m.

Finally, mountain number seven. I decided to hike Hengill last,

mostly because I love this route. The hike starts at Hellisheiðarvirkjun, where the city area gets its geothermal power. And on the way, there is a geothermal area, with a hot river, which ends down at Reykjadalur, where many tourists, as well as Icelanders, visit over the summertime.

The hike is demanding. It's 10 kilometres and up steep terrain. On this particular sunny day, our photographer Art once again joined us for a video, which you can watch on YouTube.

#### Diversity

The route's strengths are in its diversity. One moment you're hiking in a moor, the next you're surrounded by sharp rocks, overlooking Nesjavellir and Þingvellir at the same time.

But the true joy of the hike is at the end, where silence is absolute. At that moment, we could only hear our breath and heartbeats, as we stood on the summit, overlooking the whole southwest of this beautiful country.

#### The wind in the veins

On my way back down, I felt wind flowing within my veins. The palagonite had replaced my heart and the harshness of the rocky landscapes was now part of my skin.

And, without any sarcasm or corny poetry, I felt these mountains fill my soul again like they had done when I was young. And like then, now I felt like I was ready for everything. 🐾

**"On the way  
back, I felt like  
the wind was  
flowing within  
my veins."**

### The upside-down world

One more rope to the top and the



A GUIDE THAT  
FUCKS YOU UP

A selection from

# Every Happy Hour

in 101 Reykjavík

Get the  
complete  
Happy Hour  
listings!

Download  
our free app  
Appy Hour in  
the Apple and  
Android stores



**AMERICAN BAR**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 850 ISK,  
Wine 900 ISK.

**APOTEK**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 18:00.  
Beer 890 ISK,  
Wine 990 ISK.

**BASTARD BREW**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 500 ISK,  
Wine 700 ISK.

**BEER GARDEN**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 500 ISK off  
draft beer!

**BRAVÓ**  
Every day from  
11:00 to 20:00.  
Beer 700 ISK,  
Wine 900 ISK.

**CAFÉ BABALÚ**  
Every day from  
19:00 to 21:00.  
Beer 690 ISK,  
Wine 795 ISK.

**DILLON**  
Every day from  
14:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 600 ISK,  
Wine 850 ISK.

**FJALLKONAN**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 17:00.  
Beer 890 ISK,  
Wine 990 ISK.

**FORRÉTTABARINN**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 800 ISK,  
Wine 800 ISK.

**ÍSLENSKI BARINN**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 18:00.  
Beer 700 ISK,  
Wine 700 ISK.

**IDA ZIMSEN**  
Every day from  
8:00 to 10:00.  
Coffee 400 ISK.

**ÍSAFOLD**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 18:00.  
Beer 600 ISK,  
Wine 900 ISK.

**JUNGLE COCKTAIL  
BAR**  
Every day from

17:00 to 20:00.  
Beer 800 ISK,  
Wine 1,000 ISK,  
Cocktails 1,500  
ISK.

**KAFFIBARINN**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 20:00.  
Beer 750 ISK,  
Wine (On Wed.)  
800 ISK.

**KAFFIBRENNSLAN**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 20:00.  
Beer 550 ISK,  
Wine 750 ISK.

**KALDI**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 850 ISK,  
Wine 850 ISK.

**KEX HOSTEL**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 750 ISK,  
Wine 750 ISK.

**LAUNDROMAT**  
Every day from  
20:00 to 22:00.  
Beer 650 ISK,  
Wine 1,000 ISK.

**LOFT**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 20:00.  
Beer 750 ISK,  
Wine 750 ISK.

**MIAMI**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 700 ISK,  
Wine 800 ISK,  
Cocktails 1,200  
ISK.

**PAPAKU  
REYKJAVÍK**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 22:00.  
Beer 690 ISK,  
Wine 800 ISK.

**PRIKIÐ**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 20:00.  
Beer 600 ISK.

**PUBLIC HOUSE**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 18:00 &  
23:00 to 1:00.  
Beer 890 ISK,  
Wine 890 ISK.

**PUNK**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 18:00.  
Beer 890 ISK,

Cocktails 1,500  
ISK.

**PETERSEN SVÍTAN**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 20:00.  
Beer 800 ISK,  
Wine 1,000 ISK,  
Cocktails 1,500  
ISK.

**ROSENBERG**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 18:00.  
Beer 750 ISK,  
Wine 950 ISK.

**RÖNTGEN**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 20:00.  
Beer 800 ISK,  
Wine 1,000 ISK.

**SÆTA SVÍNID**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 18:00.  
Beer 890 ISK,  
Wine 990 ISK,  
Cocktails 1,500  
ISK.

**SECRET CELLAR**  
Every day from  
19:00 to 21:00.  
Beer 800 ISK,  
Wine 800 ISK.

**SESSION CRAFT  
BAR**  
Every day from  
12:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 790 ISK,  
Wine 900 ISK.

**SKÚLI CRAFT BAR**  
Every day from  
12:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 900 ISK,  
Wine 900 ISK.



### Featured Happy Hour

**APOTEK**  
AUSTURSTRÆTI 16

Everyday  
from 15:00 to  
18:00, stop by  
Reykjavík's  
classiest  
cocktail place  
for a happy hour  
that serves up

beer for 890  
ISK, wine for 990  
ISK, cocktails  
for 1,590 ISK,  
and deals on  
champagne. Our  
reccs? Grab their  
afternoon tea at  
the same time. 🍷

1,095 ISK  
Vegan option

**Uppsalið - Bar  
and cafe**  
Every day 11-14  
Burger & fries -  
1,390 ISK  
Vegan option

### 2,000 ISK And Under

**Sólón**  
Monday - Friday  
11:00 - 14:30  
Ceasar salad -  
1,490 ISK

**Lemon**  
Every day  
16:00 - 21:00  
2f1 Juice +  
sandwich

**Matarkjallarinn**  
Monday - Friday  
11:30 - 15:00  
Fisherman's fish  
soup - 1,990 ISK

**SLIPPBARINN**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 18:00.  
Beer 500 ISK,  
Wine 750 ISK,  
Cocktails 1,200  
ISK

**SPÁNSKI BARINN**  
Every day from  
14:00 to 20:00.  
Beer 650 ISK,  
Wine 850 ISK.

**SÓLON**  
Everyday from  
15:00 to 18:00.  
Beer 800 ISK,  
Wine 800 ISK.

**SUSHI SOCIAL**  
Every day from  
17:00 to 18:00.  
Beer 645 ISK,  
Wine 745 ISK,  
Half-priced  
cocktails.

**TAPAS BARINN**  
Every day from  
17:00 to 18:00.  
Beer 645 ISK,  
Wine 745 ISK.

**VEÐUR**  
Every day from  
12:00 to 19:35.  
Beer 800 ISK,  
Wine 800 ISK.

**ÖLSTOFAN**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 20:00.  
Beer 750 ISK,  
Wine 800 ISK.



Reykjavík  
Garðastræti 6 • Vínlandsleið 6-8

NATIONAL MUSEUM  
OF ICELAND



# WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND



The National Museum of Iceland  
Suðurgata 41, 101 Reykjavík

**Opening Hours**  
Daily 10-17  
Closed on  
Mondays 16/9-30/4

The Culture House  
Hverfisgata 15, 101 Reykjavík

www.nationalmuseum.is  
+354 530 2200  
@icelandnationalmuseum  
@thjodminjasafn

# Cheap Food

Here are some deals that'll  
keep your wallet feeling  
happy and full.

### 1,000 ISK And Under

**Hard Rock Café**  
Every day 15-18  
Nachos, wings &  
onion rings -  
990 ISK

**Dominos**  
Tuesdays-All day  
Medium Sized  
pizza with 3  
toppings -1,000  
ISK-Vegan option

**Sólón**  
Monday - Friday  
11:00 - 14:30  
Soup of the day  
- 990 ISK

**Tapas Barinn**  
Every day  
17:00 - 18:00  
Half off of  
selected tapas  
Various prices

**Deig / Le Kock**  
Every day-All day  
Doughnut,  
coffee & bagel  
-1,000 ISK

**Sushi Social**  
Every day  
17:00 - 18:00  
Truffle potatoes  
1,000 ISK  
Avocado fries -  
690 ISK  
Lobster sushi,  
ribs & more -  
890 ISK

### 1,500 ISK And Under

**Hamborgara-  
búlla Tómasar**  
Tuesdays-All day  
Burger, french  
fries & soda -  
1,390 ISK

**Gló**  
Every day-All day  
Bowl of the  
month - 1,290 ISK  
Vegan option

**Shalimar**  
Monday - Friday  
12:00 - 14:30  
Curry - 1,290 ISK  
Vegan option

**Sæta Svínid**  
Every day 15-18  
Chicken wings -  
1,190 ISK  
"Dirty" fries -  
1,390 ISK

**Sólón**  
Monday - Friday  
11:00 - 14:30  
Ceasar salad -  
1,490 ISK

**Lemon**  
Every day  
16:00 - 21:00  
2f1 Juice +  
sandwich

1,095 ISK  
Vegan option

**Uppsalið - Bar  
and cafe**  
Every day 11-14  
Burger & fries -  
1,390 ISK  
Vegan option

### 2,000 ISK And Under

**Sólón**  
Monday - Friday  
11:00 - 14:30  
Fish of the day -  
1,990 ISK

**Matarkjallarinn**  
Monday - Friday  
11:30 - 15:00  
Fisherman's fish  
soup - 1,990 ISK

### 5,000 ISK And Under

**Apótek**  
Every day  
11:30 - 16:00  
Two-course  
lunch -3,390 ISK  
Three course  
lunch - 4,390 ISK

### Kids Eat Free

**All Icelandair  
Hotel restaurants**

**At Prikið**  
if you order two  
adult meals

**At Haust**  
the buffet is  
free for kids







Just some Icelanders Icelanderling

# Ma! They Made A Movie About Us!

‘Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga’ stares deep into Iceland’s collective soul

Words: Sveinbjörn Pálsson  
Photos: Courtesy of Netflix

Years back I had a Croatian girl-friend and flatmate. In our exploration of the two national psyches, we found that we shared certain affectations typical of smaller European nations, namely hand-ball—a sport larger countries overlook, making it easier for us to succeed in—and Eurovision. Most larger western European countries care less about Eurovision—the UK among the least. It’s understandable—the country has such easy access to music exports that competing in a podunk competition beloved by weirdos isn’t the unique platform to Brits that it is to more emerging countries, such as Eastern European nations. As such, it isn’t surprising that BBC arts critic Will Gompertz found reason in a recent review to contrast Netflix’s newest Iceland-set film, ‘Eurovision Song Contest: The Story Of Fire Saga’ with Ragnar Kjartansson’s fine art. That’s the sort of thing that a fine arts critic would like.

### PLAY JA JA DING DONG

The review was widely shared and derided in Iceland. The bold assumptions he put forth in defence of his fantasy view of Iceland and us Icelanders starkly contrasted our innate self-knowledge that we are, among other things, a shit-hole in the middle of nowhere with nice scenery, and an urbanity that really only started a few decades ago. Will Ferrell’s Lars Ericksson, the movie’s protagonist, is a cartoon character of an Icelandic artist. A type found in many underpopulated areas of the world, he’s the single-minded weirdo that

eschews the rat race to follow his passion, with limited success. We meet him first as an adult chasing his life-long dream to be a Eurovision star, but he hasn’t made it further than gigging in his home village. His attempt at introducing his neighbours to his Eurovision-esque stylings are repeatedly met with violent reactions—all they want is the German-sounding 70’s Schlager banger “Ja Ja Ding Dong.” Such is the fate of the small-society artist. Adapt or not, you inevitably end up broke and underappreciated. His love interest, Sigrít Ericksdóttir (Rachel McAdams) is a faithful rendition of the Icelandic Manic Pixie Dream Girl. Although her relative lack of artistic independence reeks of Ferrell’s American-esque writing, she is, in a way, every Icelandic hippie, and even though her elf-conjuring in the countryside doesn’t feel familiar—she’d be at a cacao ceremony these days—she rings pretty true, all in all. Pierce Brosnan’s Handsome Dad similarly manages to draw up a rougher, but truer caricature of men of that generation than I’m used to seeing in the media. Usually they are idealised self-portraits made by Icelandic directors and writers of that generation, attempting to make themselves a bit more interesting and a bit less repressed. More saving the day in the wilderness; less sitting in a bar being kind of a grumpy dick. Much has been written about historical inconsistencies in the movie. A common take is that they

### Will Ferrell, Iceland whisperer

were drinking beer in 1974, when it was only legalised in the late 80s. As the son of a sailor, I can attest that smuggling was a common business back then so beer wasn’t too hard to come by. The competition wasn’t broadcast live here until in the early 80s, but they showed clips from the contest on TV much earlier. Reading news-

papers from the time, there was much interest in the competition. But if you zoom out, how fucking weird is it that we are fact-checking parodies now? A favourite scene was the meeting on national TV attended by head of the central bank, promoting the idea that Eurovision is held in such high esteem here

that every mover and shaker in the country would attend such meetings—especially the part where every mover and shaker is a grand total of 12 people.

### The Honest Truth

The plot is dumb. The characters are two dimensional, and the portrayal of the Eurovision contest is wildly unreal and simplistic. In its essence then, the movie is a faithful, loving rendition of the contest, completely capturing its spirit. This movie, as well as the contest, is both garbage and amazing. Any heights it does not reach, it does not aspire to. Even the villain, Russian contestant Alexander Lemtov, is an anti-villain. He’s just a little bit in the way, but totally understandable. Icelanders almost unanimously love the movie (with only a few stickler hold-outs doing a Handsome Dad impression on Facebook.) So the only real blowback comes from the BBC. The Brits. The Eurovision haters. In their long-held disdain of this camp symbol of European unity, the seeds of Brexit are clearly visible. We’re none too pleased with their condescending defense of the imaginary Icelander, but in the immortal words of Alexander Lemtov, “Everybody hates the U.K., so zero points!”



ICELANDIC GASTROPUB

# LOCAL FOOD AND BEER

Tasty and fun food made with fresh and local Icelandic ingredients.

We offer a unique selection of Icelandic beer – 20 bottled, 10 on draft, and artisan cocktails to enjoy alongside the food.



Drop by for lunch, late lunch, dinner or drinks in a casual and fun atmosphere.

Open 11:30–23:00

Hafnarstræti 1-3 / Tel. 555 2900 / [saetasvinid.is](http://saetasvinid.is)



FANCIES is where we talk to Reykjavík's most fashion-forward figures about style

# Embla Óðinsdóttir

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen Photo: Art Bicnick



**Embla Óðinsdóttir (20) works at Yeoman and is a student of graphic design at Listaháskóli Íslands.**

**Wearing:**

- Dress from Hildur Yeoman
- Sunglasses are Le Specs
- Vintage shoes
- Jewelry from Maria Black

**Describe your style in 5 words:**

Fun. Comfortable. Casual—ok maybe not casual in this dress! But I like dressing up in a casual way. If you see me, I'm always wearing dresses or skirts. So my five words? Fun, comfortable, casual, nothing more.

**Favourite stores in Reykjavík:**

Of course Yeoman, but also Spútnik and Fatamarkaðurinn. I don't shop much in Reykjavík. I mainly shop abroad.

**Favourite piece:**

It would have to be an old rabbit fur coat from my grandma. My grandpa gave it to her for their first wedding anniversary and she gave it to me. I love it. I would never buy real fur right now, but when it's handed down, it's very special.

**Something you would never wear:**

Overalls. Especially denim ones. I used to wear them when I was like three so for me, they feel really childish.

**Lusting after:**

I really want new sneakers. Some good crisp white ones. I'm looking, but I haven't found anything I really love so I'll just wait! 🐾

## FJALLKONAN

KRÁ & KRÆSINGAR

Fjallkonan is a new lively restaurant & pub in the heart of Reykjavík offering a selection of Icelandic and international dishes from local ingredients.

Casual and cosy atmosphere yet still fun and festive. Stop by for snacks & drinks, lunch or dinner.



### Icelandic Delicacies



## Must try dishes

**LAMB & FLATBREAD**

Slow cooked lamb, traditional Icelandic flatbread from the Westfjords, carrot purée, pickled red onions, horseradish sauce

**ARCTIC CHARR & BLINI**

Lightly cured arctic charr, chickpea blini, horseradish sauce, roe, crispy lentils, yuzu-elderflower dressing

**ICELANDIC PLATTER**

- > Puffin, crowsberry gel
- > Minke whale, malt glaze
- > Lamb tartar, chive mayo

**THE LAMB BURGER**

Bacon, mushroom & date duxelle, pickled red onions, pickled cucumber, rucola, smoked cheese, fries

**SKYR ETON MESS CHEESECAKE**

White chocolate "Skyr" mousse, meringue, raspberries, raspberry sauce

**Happy Hour 15-17 every day**

Draft beer, house wine by glass and cocktails – **halfprice!**

FJALLKONAN WELCOMES YOU!



# 15% DISCOUNT

15% DISCOUNT OF TOTAL BILL, EVERY DAY  
IF YOU BRING THIS TICKET



## SALKA VALKA FISH & MORE

STEAMED FRESH FISH, TRADITIONAL ICELANDIC FISH 'STEW', FISH & VEGAN SOUPS,  
SMOKED SALMON & VEGAN TOPPINGS ON SOURDOUGH BREAD, BEER, WINE, COFFEE & MORE

SKÓLAVÖRDUSTÍGUR 23 • 101 REYKJAVÍK

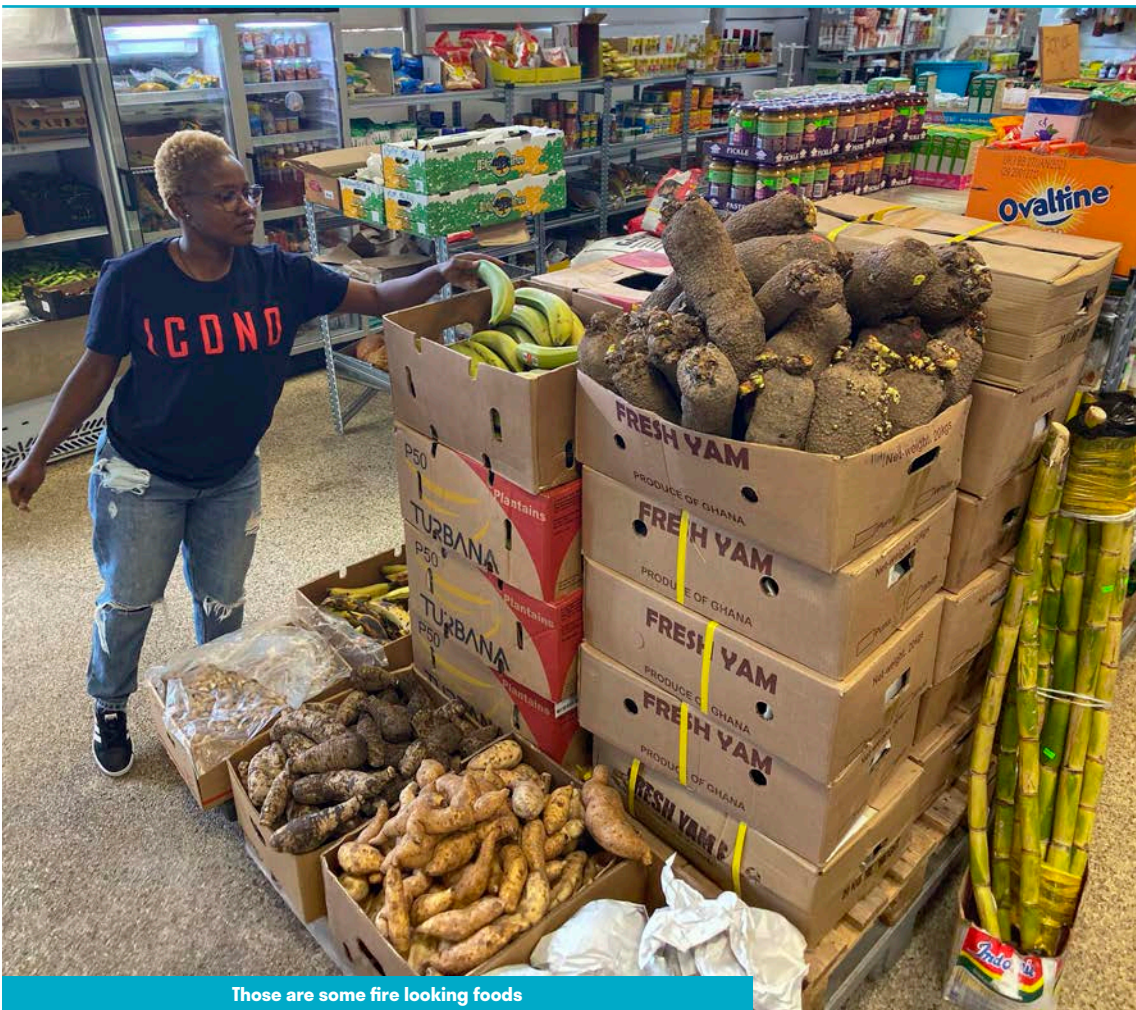
### sumac

GRILL+  
DRINKS+



Laugavegi 28  
537 99 00  
sumac@sumac.is  
sumac.is

# Food



Those are some fire looking foods

## Around The World In One City

A rundown of Reykjavík's best foreign supermarkets

Words: Nico Borbely Photos: Art Bicnick

Food is a cornerstone of culture, history and identity. Markets stocking imported products are ideal resources for immigrants cooking their favourite comfort foods, as well as important launching pads for curious locals seeking to broaden their own culinary horizons. Luckily, there are several internationally-flavoured markets right in Reykjavík.



### EuroMarket/Polski Sklep

Various locations

As once put by a visiting professor in an extracurricular University of Iceland lecture on Polish cuisine, "it's no wonder there aren't any Polish restaurants [in Reykjavík]; to get real Polish food, you have to visit a Polish family and eat with them at home." And there is perhaps no better place to prepare for such a meal than EuroMarket, otherwise known as Polski Sklep, which has various locations around Reykjavík. With an eclectic mix of general European brands hard to find in other capital area stores, and intensely Polish products such as authentic kielbasa and frozen pierogi flown straight from the motherland, it's about as culi-

narily close to Warsaw, Kraków or Gdańsk as you can get in Iceland.



### Istanbul Market

Grensásvegur 10

Located in the 108 postal code, Istanbul Market Matvöruverslun has been a staple of the foreign market scene since 2013. With a wide variety of general Middle Eastern and specifically Turkish treats, ingredients and snacks, this is definitely a place to visit if you're craving traditional Turkish coffee, Turkish delight, dried Arabic dates, or mouth-watering baklava.



### Afrozone

Lóuhólar 4

Located at Breiðholt, Afrozone specializes in making a wider ar-

ray of products available in town. The store receives regular shipments of "exotic" produce like papayas, yams and plantains, as well as African snacks, junk foods and spices. Afrozone also serves as a much-needed spot to stock up on numerous afro-textured hair-specific products and wigs.



### Mai Thai Market & Dai Phat Asian Supermarket

Hlemmur & Faxafen 14

Several stores in and around town focus on Asian food products. The Mai Thai Market and Bistro across from Hlemmur, which offers plentiful IAM juices, pad thai and oyster sauces, and imported noodles, doubles as a four-and-a-half-star-rated Tripadvisor restaurant. And Dai Phat Asian Supermarket at Faxafen 14 in Heimar offers a broad range of Thai, Vietnamese and Indian seasonings, ingredients and fresh vegetables. 🌿





This tea is a zinger

# Herb Your Enthusiasm

Foraging forays with Anna Rósa

Words: Poppy Askham Photo: Art Bicnick

Anna Rósa has almost thirty years of experience as a herbalist and skincare specialist, and most notably for our purposes, she's an expert on Icelandic foraging. "I came across this article in the newspaper about a herbalist," Anna Rósa explains, casually sipping tea in her sparse office. "I'd never heard about it before, but after that I just knew that I was going to be a herbalist and four months later I was in England studying herbalism. People thought it was weird, but it was a calling. I had no choice in the matter."

After four years of study, Anna Rósa returned home to southern Iceland, where she grew up, and subsequently threw herself full force into foraging. "I mainly work in the south. I know it much better and it's so full of flora," she explains. Her other favourite spot is the north, but her work takes her all across the island.

To get her supplies, Anna Rósa relies on a network of rural informants, or "farmer spies," as she prefers to call them, to keep her up to date with the emergence of different plants across the countryside. Once the herbs start growing

she waits for a dry day, but as she explains, "that's difficult in Iceland so I'm addicted to the weather report in the summer."

You might imagine that herbalism is a somewhat relaxed profession, but this is an assumption that Anna Rósa assures us is misfounded. "You can't dawdle around, it's hard work," she emphasises, explaining that plants have to be prepared within a crucially short window of time to prevent damage, meaning the herbalist will often drive to Akureyri and back in a single day. "I just drive early, fill the car and come back and dry [the plants] or make a tincture or oil with the fresh herbs. It has to be processed straightaway... you work the full night if you have to."

## Flower power

But beginner herbalists needn't despair—for those who are not foraging on a commercial scale, the art is a little simpler. "Absolutely everyone can learn the basics," Anna Rósa reassures us. All you'll need is a pair of robust scissors, a sturdy sack and a little enthusiasm. Anna

Rósa recommends starting out with meadowsweet, a large sweet-smelling herb with creamish-white flowers. "Here in the south we have fields of it everywhere so you can't possibly over-harvest", she explains, adding that she often uses the plant to treat gastric issues. "It's very easy to harvest—you can gather enough for the winter in just one hour."

In fact, the herb can be used to brew the Reykjavík Grapevine Tea, specially concocted by Anna Rósa herself and said to have anti-inflammatory and immune-system-boosting properties. Make it yourself at home and email your reviews to [grapevine@grapevine.is](mailto:grapevine@grapevine.is) We'll be waiting with healthy, non-inflamed breath.

## The RVK Grapevine Tea!

1 part Meadowsweet  
1 part Angelica seed  
1 part Yarrow

Put 3-4 tablespoons of the blend into 750ml of boiling water. Allow to brew then sieve the infusion and enjoy.

Bonus tip: put the herbs back into a flask of fresh water and drink throughout the day. 🍵

Check out Anna Rósa and her skincare line at [annarosaskincare.com](http://annarosaskincare.com). All the profits go to refugee organisations.



# SNAPS

REYKJAVÍK | B I S T R O - B A R | EST. 2012

## FRENCH ONION SOUP

Icelandic Ísbúi cheese, croûtons  
2.490 kr.

## MOULES MARINIÈRES

steamed mussels from Breiðafjörður  
2.600 kr.

## FISH OF THE DAY

chef's special  
3.990 kr.  
Lunch offer from 11:30 - 14:00 1.990 kr.

ÓÐINSTORG | 101 | REYKJAVÍK | ÍSLAND  
SNAPSBISTRO.IS | +354 5116677



JimClaudia2016

Reviewed 1 week ago

Authentic Thai Food

I am surprised at the poor reviews because during our visit in August the service and food were both great. Maybe because we just arrived just before they opened at 6?

Actually, in hindsight, I am glad we did not read the reviews because we were so pleased with our meal and we were able to have lengthy conversations with both the owner and staff.

Show less

Date of visit: August 2019

Value

Service

Food

BEST THAI FOOD 2019

ban

thai

RESTAURANT

Always been the best from the reviews in our local people and local newspaper.

There's a reason why we get an award every once a year

Best goddamn restaurant 2011

Top Ten of Best restaurants in Iceland (DV. 17.06.11)

very reasonable prices

recommend : two very good thai restaurants

MIXED thai restaurant, hverfisgata 125, tel : 588 -1818

YummiYummi thai restaurant, hverfisgata 123, tel : 588 -2121

AWARDS

thumbs up

www.ban thai.is

tel : 55 -22-444, 692-0564

banthai@banthai.is

ban

thai

RESTAURANT



# Travel

## Listening To Volcanoes

Volcano science is a quiet job—until it isn't

Words: Andie Sophia Fontaine Photos: Art Bicnick



Travel distance  
from Reykjavik:  
40 km

Support the Grapevine!  
View this QR code in your  
phone camera to visit  
our tour booking site



"I grew up in this field," Baldur Bergsson, a specialist in monitoring at the Icelandic Met Office, tells us as we drive to one of two sites where we will see if a volcanic eruption is imminent. "My father's been installing seismic meters since I was born. I studied natural geography at university and was very fond of volcanoes, since I grew up around them."

Earthquakes and volcanoes are iconic of Iceland. They literally created the country itself. While images of giant ash plumes and fountains of lava ignite the imagination, what all too often go ignored are the scientists on the ground who do the quiet, often repetitive work of gathering the data that helps detect them before they happen.

Baldur is one of the many scientists in Iceland whose job it is to do just that. Today, we're going to two sites: Eldvörp, a string of volcanic craters along the Reykjanes peninsula, and Svartsengi Power Plant, the geothermal plant whose waste waters created the Blue Lagoon—and happens to be in the shadow of Mt. Þórbjörn, a volcano that made news last March when earthquake clusters and ground swelling caused by magma making its way towards the surface were detected around it.

### Evacuation plans for everyone

When Mt. Þórbjörn began acting up, readers abroad were particularly concerned about its closeness to Keflavík International Airport. Closer to home, the main concern was the town of Grindavík, which lays in the shadow of the volcano.

While an eruption at Mt. Þórbjörn would possibly spell the end of the Blue Lagoon, and likely cut off electricity and hot water to the airport, the people of Grindavík would be in good hands. The Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management has been holding regular town hall meetings with the townspeople, keeping them apprised, and there is a detailed evacuation plan in place that everyone knows how to follow.

"For every town in Iceland there is a very detailed plan of evacuation in place in the event of a natural disaster," Baldur tells us. "There is a very complicated but effective strategy for this."

### At the mouth of the volcanic crater

As we reach the area of Reykjanes near the Blue Lagoon, we take a service road deep into the lava field that comprises



Lot of writing in this job

much of the peninsula. Soon we arrive at what looks like a large mound of lava rocks, steam pouring out of every crevice. As Baldur unpacks his instruments from the back of the jeep and we approach the mound, the heat from it is palpable. "Some time ago there was lava shooting out of this," Baldur says matter-of-factly.

The top of the mound does have a distinct crater within it. Seeing it now, covered with moss and flowers, it's difficult to imagine that 900 years ago it was spewing lava everywhere, but if you clamber to the top you can see the row of similar crater mounds that were formed when the earth split open for several kilometres across the country, way back in the 13th century.

The first thing Baldur does is set down a small green box with a pair of tubes sticking out of it, making a constant whirring reminiscent of an electric air pump. This device monitors the presence of certain gases that are the tell-tale signs of volcanic activity: carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, hydrogen sulphide and hydrogen." I don't expect to see much here now," Baldur says. "But if we do see much here now, we'll know that something's changing."

### The science of waiting

Next, Baldur hammers a long iron tube into the ground, affixes a thin hose to the top of it, and connects this to a clear plastic cylinder filled with what looks like blue aquarium gravel (it turns out it's a substance used to keep the instruments inside dry), which is in turn connected to a black box used to detect radon levels.

And then we wait. This, Baldur says, is most of what volcano specialists do: set up their instruments, wait for the data to come in, and then record it. It can be tedious, but it's crucial work for keeping people safe.

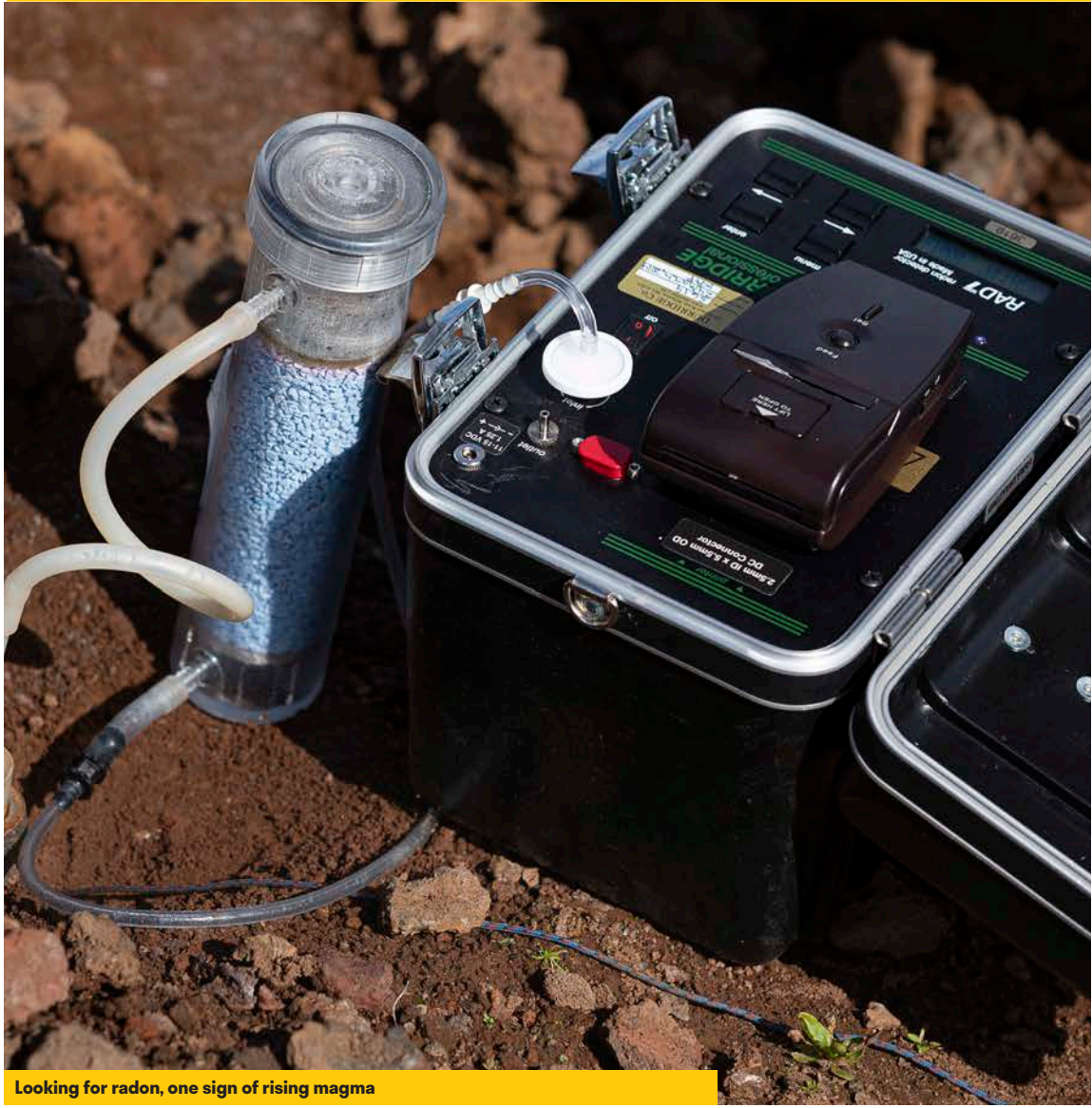
"My first project was to map out the gas-emitting areas around Hekla, and I don't know how many hours I spent at this," Baldur recalls. "Putting an instrument on the ground, waiting a minute and a half, picking it up and walking ten steps, and doing it again. But now we know where the gas-emitting places are. It just took 22 trips to the summit of Hekla."

Baldur takes his readings of the radon levels, writing them in a notebook. Nothing new here. It appears we are safe from an impending volcanic eruption for now.



A volcano, looking very much like a regular mountain





Looking for radon, one sign of rising magma

"There are a number of gasses that are distinctive to eruptive gasses in Iceland, such as sulphur dioxide. If we were to measure that, we would know that the magma is shallow, like at three kilometres depth or higher. If there was a sudden increase in hydrogen or CO<sub>2</sub>, for instance. Basically what we're trying to see is: is there a change? Is there a difference from last time?"

### Literally standing on magma

We pack up, load into the jeep and drive west to the Svartsengi Power Plant. Our site is a large clearing near large geothermal steam pipes that issue a hissing roar. As before, we are here to measure radon, gas levels and ground temperatures. Seeing Mt. Þórbjörn a mere stone's throw away, I recall last March's news that magma making its way upwards had lifted the ground by a few centimeters.

I ask Baldur where this swelling took place, what area is basically resting on top of a giant pool of magma. He makes a wide, sweep-

ing gesture with his arm. A mere two or three kilometers beneath our feet, a sea of magma bides its time.

"The volcanic systems in Reykjanes are not under glaciers, they're not as large and defined," he says. "The eruptions are usually diffusive; you'll have an event which opens and then lava just flows out. You don't have a huge ash cloud like they had at Grímsvötn. What we'll probably get here in Reykjanes is a fire fountaining of lava, which will reach maybe a few hundred metres at the start, and then lava flowing to the sides. Probably a lot of gas, like at Holuhraun, but not an ash cloud."

### The excitement of impending doom

Knowing when the data indicates an eruption is on the way depends entirely on the historic record.

"What we're focusing on is what happens just before an eruption," Baldur explains. "This could be maybe a month before or, in the case of Hekla, hours before. Each volcano is different. We try to de-

fine what happens before an eruption, and a lot of our knowledge comes from past eruptions; [we] document that and adjust our monitoring techniques for each individual volcano. Of course, this is really difficult when it comes to volcanoes that might erupt every 100 or 200 years. In those cases, we just have to go with how things generally work."

When the data does indicate an eruption is on the way, the mood amongst scientists becomes highly charged with excitement. "Everyone that's in this [field] gets excited. A lot of people get very stressed. They want to get all the data; all the things have to get done, right now. Calls to Civic Protection and the media."

For the most part, though, the job of people like Baldur is exactly how it was today.

"A lot of repetition," he says with a laugh. "But that's science. These readings will probably give the same results as last week, but we'll never know unless we try, again and again and again." 🍷



## YOU HAVE TO

Visit Iceland's largest **music museum** and enjoy the history of **Icelandic rock and pop music**.

**Only 5 minutes away from Keflavik Airport!**  
**Take a taxi or bus no. 55**

**Rokksafn**  
Íslands

The Icelandic Museum of Rock 'n' Roll  
For more go to [www.rokksafn.is](http://www.rokksafn.is)

Open  
daily

**HORNIÐ**  
Restaurant ~ Pizzeria



**Hornið** opened in 1979 was the first restaurant of its kind in Iceland, a restaurant with a true Italian atmosphere. Hornið is known for good food made out of fresh raw materials, good pizzas baked in front of the guests, good coffee and comfortable service.

Lunch offers every day.

Open every day from 11.00 to 23.30

For reservations call 551-3340



Restaurant Hornið - Hafnarstræti 15, 101 Reykjavík - s. 551 3340 - [www.hornid.is](http://www.hornid.is)





# ARTISAN BAKERY & COFFEE HOUSE

OPEN EVERYDAY 6.30 - 21.00

# SANDHOLT

REYKJAVÍK

LAUGAVEGUR 36 · 101 REYKJAVÍK



WELL, YOU ASKED



## Big Time Griller, Big Time Killer

Words: Sam O'Donnell

### How do I assert my dominance over my family at summer barbecues?

Since you're asking this question, I already know you aren't manning the grill at these barbecues. You gotta get there by any means necessary. Starting a fight with whoever the grill-master is might earn you some favourable results, but only if you know you'll win. Getting KO'ed at the family BBQ is not a good look, especially if the food gets burnt in the process. Straight up murder might be your best course of action. I know from playing many video games that a stealth kill is much more effective than overtly walking up to someone and stabbing them, so try to be sneaky about it. For reference, depending on your stats, a stealth kill could do up to 12 times the damage a regular kill does.

### I've grown tired of being "the funny one." How do I go about transitioning into another role?

Nobody who is actually funny grows tired of being the funny one. I see right through you. It sounds like this transition will be easy. Just start talking about existentialism and how impermanent life is and your friends will immediately start seeing you as the gloomy one of the group. They might stop asking you to hang out with them, but that was bound to happen anyway with your forced delivery and punch-down method. Alternatively, you could go to school for accounting. That will dry your sense of humour right up and you'll still have friends, although they might keep you around for the solely for free tax advice. 🍷

HORROR-SCOPES

# Come Out, Capricorn

PRIDE PRIDE PRIDE!!!!

Words: An Andie Sophia, Hannah Jane & Poppy Charlotte Production

*In Horror-Scopes, the Grapevine's dedicated team of amateur astrologists break down your upcoming weeks based on shit like the allegedly-feminine-but-actually-full-of-toxic-atmospheric-vapour planet "Venus."*



#### Aries

Kiki's renovated. You just got your new Wigs by Vanity and you're ready to bitch about whoever wins 'RuPaul's Drag Race: All Stars 5' on the internet. It's Pride, Aries; don't feel shame about how much you love it. That's what the Straights™ want you to do.



#### Taurus

On the first day, God created the heavens and the earth. On the second, he said,



#### Gemini

Don't worry, when you explain the term "pansexual" to your grandma for the 32nd time, she'll totally get it—we promise there won't even be any kitchen-appliance-based jokes or uncomfortable silences. Ok, we don't promise, but a kid can dream right?



#### Cancer

Being a "useless lesbian" isn't an identity, Gemini. It's a defense mechanism that makes you stay inside and cry to

'Unsolved Mystery' reruns when you should be out having fun. This Pride, leave that label in the past and become the Holland Taylor you were born to be. Sarah Paulson is waiting.



#### Leo

It's ok, honey, play "Beautiful" by Christina Aguilera on repeat, this is your month. That's what you kids do during Pride right? (This horoscope was written by your Mom.)



#### Virgo

'Chromatica' is overrated, Virgo. It's not just you.



#### Libra

Your value to the people who love you is not rooted in your productivity. It's rooted in how great you smell in the morning. So rest assured your gay af partner loves you just the way you are.



#### Scorpio

You're not "too much" or "a drama tornado" or "high maintenance". You are simply too fabulous for mere mortals to comprehend let alone handle. Eschew those haters, you living deity.



#### Sagittarius

One day, Carly Rae Jepsen will finally release those 200 disco songs that should have been on 'Dedicated'.

And on that day, Sagittarius, you will finally feel complete. Stay strong. Or just listen to the new banger by Aly & AJ.



#### Capricorn

Use your asexual invisibility powers to rob a bank. Just do it. They won't see you. You've got an ace up your sleeve waiting to be used.



#### Aquarius

Take a good, long look in the mirror, trans Aquarius. Do you pass? Who gives a shit? You look amazing. You're gorge. Live the dream with your head held high.



#### Pisces

Hey there, nonbinary Pisces, we see you. Reject all dichotomies this month. Don't be shoehorned into a false dilemma between "whiskey sour" or "shots". Take both! We promise you won't regret it. 🍷



CITY SHOT by Art Bienick

They see me rollin'





Daily departures from Húsafell and Reykjavík

Experience  
the amazing  
**Langjökull**  
glacier tunnels

Find us:



#intotheglacier

[www.intotheglacier.is](http://www.intotheglacier.is)







**LAST WORDS**

## Iceland In The Spotlight

Words: **Anna Andersen**  
Photo: **Natsha Nandabhiwat**

Icelanders are basking in the joy of Will Ferrell's new comedy 'Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga', which beautifully captures the spirit of this campy contest and Iceland's curious passion for it. The Netflix film, which has been trending in Iceland for weeks, comes just in time to cheer up a nation that has been mourning their missed opportunity to shine in the real contest.

When Icelanders learned that the Eurovision Song Contest would not take place this year due to the coronavirus, they were crushed. Many thought, when the announcement was made back in March, that the pandemic had crossed the line. A handball player whose sport had been put on hold said the Eurovision cancellation was the worst thing to happen in years. A journalist proposed that Icelanders take a moment to collectively cry their eyes out in the shower. Of all the cancellations, this one hurt the most.

If that seems strange, consider the fact that Iceland has only recently seen international success in sports like soccer and handball. The Eurovision Song Contest has historically been one of few venues for the country to compete with the outside world. It's an opportunity to be seen by roughly 200 million people. Since Iceland started participating in the contest in 1986, it has entered and failed to win 32 times. Yet every year Icelanders have the same high hopes of winning—and this year, they were convinced that they would win.

Alas, Icelanders didn't get to strut their stuff in Rotterdam and their "certain" victory was derailed, but all was not lost for a country that craves attention from abroad. Although, as one BBC reviewer put it, they are portrayed in Ferrell's film as "an unsophisticated bunch of beer-drinking, whale-watching, knitted jumper-wearing innocents," Icelanders couldn't care less. They're just excited to be portrayed in a film that people all over the world are watching. In a year without Eurovision, Iceland found the spotlight. 🍷



## ATV Tours, Kayaking & Glacier Walks

FROM SÓLHEIMAJÖKULL & MÝRDALSJÖKULL BASE CAMPS



[mountainguides.is](http://mountainguides.is)  
[info@mountainguides.is](mailto:info@mountainguides.is)  
Tel: +354 587 9999

Book online or call our sales office from 9:00am - 4:00pm



## Glacier Walks & Ice Climbing

FROM SKAFTAFELL, VATNAJÖKULL N.P.

Book online or call our sales office from 9:00am - 4:00pm

[mountainguides.is](http://mountainguides.is) • [info@mountainguides.is](mailto:info@mountainguides.is) • Tel: +354 587 9999

**ICELANDIC  
MOUNTAIN GUIDES**