

Iceland

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Note: Most of our guides are crafted with the help and input of Umphreaks who have spent years traveling or living in our intended destinations. Due to the international nature of this vacation, this guide was created nearly without Umphreak input. We would like to thank the couple Umphreaks who had been to Iceland before and recommended a few spots.

What we included below is a wide swath of recommendations and research that we thought might appeal to fans. We used multiple sources to try and glean as much information as possible. For cold and icy days, we have suggested a huge list of museums and taverns. For nicer days, there are tons exciting nearby outdoor adventures for one to get into. Iceland is an extremely unique place and this will be an amazing trip, and we cannot wait to invade Iceland and melt face in the ice cold with our fellow Umphreaks.

We suggest a couple products in this guide. Know that we are not sponsored by these companies, we get no kickbacks, and are suggesting these items from previous experience.

Bars / Taverns / Breweries

Lebowski bar - Laugarvegur 20a, Reykjavik, Reykjavik 101 Iceland

If your bar is named "Lebowski", it's bound to have a bowling theme. This spot is a homage to the Best Movie Ever Made, with small references popping up throughout the bar. They sell White Russians of many different varieties – we have heard good things about the Cocoa

Puffs Russian. The bathroom is Jacky Treehorn inspired. On Thursdays there is Lebowski trivia from 9-11pm. This spot is often crowded, more of your typical 'bar bar', with a jukebox going as opposed to live bands. The food here is also not too shabby either, greasy but good seems to be the overall consensus.

Slippbarinn *Myrargata 2, Reykjavik 101 Iceland*

Casual bar that offers food and is open from morning to late. We have been told that the buffet may not be worth investing in, but otherwise brunch is often quite good. The cocktail menu is considered quite fantastic and is a relative steal during happy hour.

Skuli Craft Bar - *Adalstraeti 9, Reykjavik 101, Iceland*

Multitap craft brew bar with 14 taps on rotation, with 130 different craft beer possibilities. The room appears cozy with a modern wooden motif that is neither too sophisticated nor too rustic. Their cheese plates appear to be popular. The bar has a focus on Borg Brewery beers, but there are many many other local and Nordic options to choose from. *Guide to Iceland* suggests checking out the "Leifur", a Nordic Saison made with arctic thyme native to Iceland. Happy hour is 4-7pm.

Kaffibarinn - *Bergstadastraeti 1, Reykjavik 101, Iceland*

By day, Kaffibarrin is a mild mannered coffee shop, by night, a busy bustling bar. There are many excellent local DJs that come through and spice up the evening atmosphere. Known for its vibrant parties and crammed dancefloor, this spot features mostly house music on the weekends. Gets busiest after midnight, so if you're looking to rage, consider pregaming at a different bar beforehand and then show up here at 11:50pm with you gameface.

MicroBar *Vesturgata 2, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland*

A wide variety of Icelandic and Greenlandic microbrews are available at this small, basement sized draft room. The featured brewery is There is a sampler available, but you might want to share it as it's somewhat pricey, but the sample sizes are fairly large.

Kex Hostel *Skúlagata 28, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland*

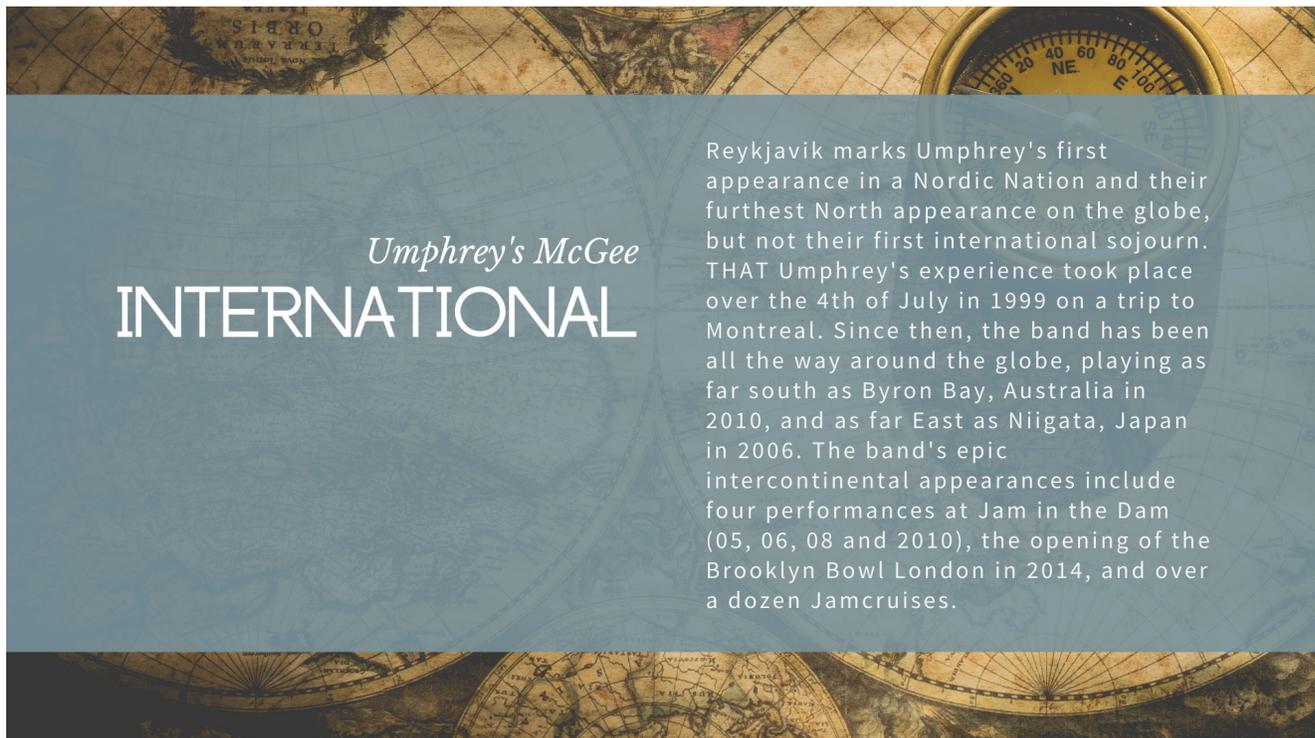
A unique idea: create a bar in a biscuit factory that was once up for demolition. This place was going to be multilevel office space, but then the 2008 Economic Collapse occurred. Developers gave up on the spot, which was purchased and converted into a hostel, eatery and modern bar. The bar has some comfortable seating and is a unique experience due to the building. Located very close to some main thoroughfares, making this a fairly easy bar to reach between locales.

Bryggjan Brugghus *Grandagardur 8, Reykjavik 101 Iceland*

Bryggjan uses an age old formula for creating an exciting nightlife spot by combining live music, good food and craft brew. The brewery's offerings depend on the season, with a

lighter twist in the summer and a stouty, heavier approach in the winter. The brewery offers tours with an obligatory tasting. On Sundays, Bryggjan Brugghus has Jazz starting at 9pm. The food here is supposedly also quite excellent, and we have read that the Salted Cod & Mushroom Risotto is magnificent. There are vegan options here as well. Located very close to the Saga and Maritime Museum. Open until 11pm.

Eimverk Distillery *Lyngás 13, 210 Garðabær, Iceland*



Breakfast / Brunch

Reykjavik Roasters *Karastigur corner of Frakkastigur, Reykjavik 101 Iceland*

If you're looking for an excellent cup of coffee, Reykjavik Roasters has come highly recommended. It's more of a "Grab and Go" spot than a "Sit and relax and your laptop" type of joint, but all the drinks are considered high quality from the lattes to the chais. There are small finger food items and danishes on the menu as well.

Braud & Co 16, *Frakkastigur Gló Restaurant Fákafeni & Hlemmur Mathöll, Reykjavik 101 Iceland*

Baked goods are a staple of Icelandic breakfasts, and Braud & Co can produce breaded deliciousness with the best of 'em. Cinnamon rolls, caramel rolls, donuts are bountiful. This is a local bread shop, located inside a beautifully painted house, has some fantastic breads. They also serve excellent coffee, and it's also located right down the street from Reykjavik roasters if you're trying to combine the two. The cinnamon rolls are vegan so everyone can enjoy. Sometimes, there's a raspberry licorice cinnamon roll. A. raspberry. licorice. cinnamon. roll.

Prikid *Bankastraeti 12, Reykjavik 101 Iceland*

Prikid is an institution in Iceland, a well-loved spot that is exalted for more than simple breakfast. Open since 1951, this cafe has an excellent bar and is roomy enough for a few tables. If you come in for breakfast, people highly recommend the “French Connection”, which is a French-Toast spread with the full works. The coffee is endless. For lunch, there are burger offerings, and a highly recommended ham sandwich called “Celine Dijon”. There are at least two vegan options for the plant based homies. At night, they sometimes have music and the spot turns into more of a tavern than a café, and remains open until 1am – not late by Icelandic standards. This is an extremely popular spot on Saturday nights for live music and affordable drinks.

Nat Kitchen *Laugavegi 85 101 Reykjavik, Reykjavik 101 Iceland*

Large portions of “healthy” food with options for all. This is a small spot with shakes, smoothies, and little sandwiches and wraps that can be eaten on site or taken to go. We placed this under “Breakfast” due to the smoothies, but this is more like a brunch operation and scan span the meal spectrum. On site prepared and prepackage sushi and other little treats are also available. This might be a good option for breakfast and to snag picnic food for before going out on an adventure.

Early in the Morning *Veghusastigur 9, Reykjavik 101 Iceland*

Decent breakfast spot that gets good reviews, most of which note that food here is a bit pricey. You may want to consider prebooking a table if possible, as the spot does get quite busy and is somewhat small. Traditional breakfast favorites like eggs, bacon, toast and pancakes. Your main course is combined with toast, oats, coffee and any number of sides. In the evening, this spot changes into a laid-back wine bar.

Lunch

Mikkeller & Friends Reykjavik - *Hverfisgata 12 Top floor, Reykjavik 101 Iceland*

A 20 tap bar that is relatively new in the Reykjavik scene. Considered charming and welcoming, Mikkeller is located in the heart of Reykjavik, making it convenient to stop in for a pint from just about anywhere. This European brewer originally started as a “nomadic” brewery which created their beers borrowing other breweries’ equipment. Eventually, the company found its way to San Diego where it put down roots as a multi-draft crafter. At the same time, they were opening restaurants all over the world. There are now atleast 40

Mikkeller & Friends globally.

Bike Cave - *Einarsnes 36, Reykjavik 101 Iceland*

Restaurant and bike shop that is set up to look like a living room. If you had a bike in this country, you could have a meal and a drink while your vehicle was undergoing repairs. But, as you're just a tourist, you'll need to settle for the meal.

Reykjavik Chips - *Vitastigur 10, Reykjavik 101 Iceland*

Do you love French Fries? Like, really really love French fries? ...To a point where you might think: "Man, a whole restaurant dedicated to just those particular potatoes would be fuckin' fire"? Well, look no further. Reykjavik Chips is a true haven for the fry obsessed. This restaurant tends to lean more Fat Fry than Shoestring, and serves their fries with an amazing array of sauces, including two vegan sauces for your plant based buddies. Can be considered a bit pricey to some.

Café Loki - *Lokastigur 28 101 Reykjavík, Reykjavik 101 Iceland*

Cafe Loki offers Icelandic traditional dishes like meat soup, fermented shark, dried fish, several sample plates and homemade bread and cakes. Their most popular dishes are the Rye Bread Ice cream and Skyr cake. The location has a beautiful view across Reykjavik and the surrounding area. Located in a very cute two/three floor building with large windows.

Cafe Gardurinn - *Klapparstigur 37, Reykjavik 101 Iceland*

Healthy vegetarian spot with several vegan options. Lots of soups and sandwiches, many choices for a semi-light midday meal. The Arabian Coconut soup, the Blueberry Lemon Cheesecake comes highly recommended.

Dirty Burgers & Ribs *Miklabraut 101 Beint a Moti Kringlunni, Reykjavik 105 Iceland*

This is a small spot with a limited menu that consists of ribs, burgers or pulled pork. The service is quick and the portions are fairly large. They serve decent fry portions as well. This spot is no frills but will sate your hunger if you're looking for a place to grab a beer and burger.

The Coooco's Nest - *Grandagardur 23, Reykjavik 101 Iceland*

A local spot that seems to serve all meals. There is a limited, sometime handwritten, menu that has been reviewed as "good but constrictive". Many reviewers mentioned liking the pancakes, pastas and pizzas at this spot. I believe that they serve beers here however several folks have mentioned that they stumbled in after having "beers across the street" (probably at Bryggjan Brugghús).

Kaffi Vinyl - *hverfisgata 76, Reykjavik 101 Iceland*

Cool brunch/lunch spot has a wide variety of options for those who are meandering between breakfast and lunch. There are several food options, with occasional vegan options, and a DJ who is often spinning records in shop. Funky décor and a mellow vibe. Serves delicious coffee and excellent beer. Note: You will see this place listed as "vegan" on several websites, but they recently changed their menu to serve all cuisine types.

Glo *Laugavegur 20B, Reykjavik 101 Iceland*

A mostly vegetarian/vegan local chain (with a couple meat meals), Glo creates dishes that range from healthy to comfort foods. There are vegetarian and vegan "bowls", burgers, and wraps. Relatively affordable and definitely delicious looking, this spot should have options for all who are looking for something refreshing and bordering on healthy-ish.

Dinner

Rok *Frakkastigur 26a, Reykjavik 101 Iceland*

A fairly nice spot that has a wide range of options. They like to refer to their motif as 'fine casual'. Much of the food is served "tapas style". Many Icelandic staples, like cured reindeer, cod, fish stew and lamb are all available. You will need to make reservations over 24 hours in advance for this spot, unless you're okay with sitting at the bar.

Apotek Restaurant *Austurstræti 16, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland*

An Argentinian take on Icelandic cuisine. The inside of the restaurant looks extremely fancy, though it describes itself as "Smart Casual". It appears to be quite upscale. There are large windows in the front which make for perfect people watching. The venue itself has a well-reviewed taster of Icelandic classics. They also serve a ton of fish and beer related options. The salmon is also well loved. Their cocktails are award winning, though very pricey. If you're looking for a fancy meal, this is a good spot to investigate.

Reykjavik Kitchen *Rauðarárstígur 8, 105 Reykjavík, Iceland*

A family owned restaurant located near the philological museum. The space looks very clean and modern, and the menu mostly consists of fish related entrees and starters – though there does appear to be at least one vegetarian offering.

Sjavargrillid Seafood Grill *Skólavörðustígur 14, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland*

A relatively upscale joint that focuses on traditional Iceland flavors. The chef, Gústav Axel Gunnlaugsson, won Iceland's Chef of the Year award in 2010, and afterwards went on a journey to locate Iceland's best ingredients and recipes. This restaurant is a culmination of his collection. The interior is nice but not overwhelming. The menu has a large seafood focus, but there are other Icelandic specialties, like Grilled Puffin or Lamb. The salmon is considered the highlight of the menu. The catfish is also well recommended.

Fiskmarkadurinn - The Fish Market *Aðalstræti 12, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland*

This is a very fancy place and is considered quite a delicacy by many. The meal will likely last for a couple hours. The restaurant's vibe is very upscale with an open kitchen near the bar. The food is a fusion of Icelandic and Asian – sushi is served on the menu, alongside traditional options like reindeer. The lamb comes highly recommended, supposedly the combination of sauces it is served with makes it a highlight.

Resto *Raudararstigur 27-29, Reykjavik 105 Iceland*

Resto serves Nordic classics with a heavy emphasis on seafood. Tucked away a bit from the main streets, Resto is considered a hidden gem by many. The Catch of the Day always seems to receive strong reviews online. For an Icelandic dinner, the meal is not too outrageously expensive. If you're not having fish, lamb is always the classic alternative.

UMPHREYS INTERNATIONAL NUMBERS



32 VENUES PLAYED
INTERNATIONALLY

12 COUNTRIES PLAYED
INTERNATIONALLY

19 CITIES PLAYED
INTERNATIONALLY

87 SHOWS PLAYED
INTERNATIONALLY



Vegan

There are not a ton of flat out *vegan* spots, but one thing that is nice about Nordic countries is they try to make their menus fairly inclusive. Most meat serving restaurants will have at least one vegan item, often much more. The challenge is always trying to find which restaurants have the most options for all parties involved. That's why we're recommending two apps for vegans: **Vegan Iceland** and **HappyCow**. **Vegan Iceland** does an amazing job in locating your plant based options within a omnivorous kitchen (if you're ever in Norway, there's a **Vegan Norway** app as well which kicks major ass). **HappyCow** is an international staple for any vegan and works a lot like Yelp but for vegan places and vegan options. If you do not already utilize this application, I highly recommend it. The combination of these two applications will keep you full as you parade around the island on your trip.

Jomm Kringlan, Reykjavik 105 Iceland

Extremely simple vegan fast food spot that is somewhat hard to find because it is located within a mall. Their big claim to fame is their simple burgers. These are made with Oumph Faux Meat, which is popular in Europe, and can be hit or miss for some folks. The burgers get mixed reviews – most agree that Jomm puts too much veganaise on their burgers - so ask them to go light on it. There are also “boxes/bowls” that can be ordered with the Spicy Oumph Box recommended to us. This place more than “gets the job done”...more of a lunch or a grab-n-go dinner type place.

Veganaes Tryggvagata 22 Gaukurinn, Reykjavik 101 Iceland

Progressive spot that is quite popular Vegan Diner inside of Gaukurinn bar and music venue. They do not serve food when there is music ongoing, so call ahead to be sure. Well

known for their seitan burgers, vegan steaks and vegan fish and chips. There is a happy hour around dinner time and they serve vegan beer (Einstock). The portions are well sized. There is very little that would be considered “healthy” here, but this is probably the best vegan comfort food throwdown in Reykjavik. The vegan steak comes highly recommended.

The Bagel House Food Truck

This Bagel Food Truck is 100% vegetarian/vegan. Some of the items do have milk/eggs/cheese, so many sure to ask, but there is absolutely no meat on the menu. A great spot for the plant based prone who are looking for something specifically “breakfast”. Would be a good “Take to Go” option so that you have something to Nosh as you run around on various adventures.



Late Night Food

Mandi Veltusund 3b, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland

This is a true late-night spot. Open until 6am on weekends! Shawrma, falafel, gyros, all of your Middle Eastern favorites are here. The kebab comes highly recommended. There is often a long wait as they are one of the few restaurants open this late, but it is well worth it if you're starved at 3am. Vegan options for plant based friends.

HIÖlli Bíldshöfði 5, 110 Reykjavík, Iceland

One of the first fast food restaurants within Iceland and it embodies all the good and bad of that cuisine in one spot. It will be tasty, but it will be gloriously unhealthy. This is a large menu with options similar to standards - the Bacon Boat is like a BLT, or the Chicken/Bacon sandwich which is similar to a club – all created to help offset your hangover.

The Deli *Bankastraeti 14, Reykjavik 101, Iceland*

The Deli is a late night pizza legend in Iceland. Great pizza, paninis and pasta. Open until 5am.

Devitos *Laugavegur 126, 105 Reykjavík, Iceland*

Open until 6am on Friday and Saturday, This is the major late-night-pizza competition to "The Deli". Devitos is a NYC-ish style standard, hole-in-the-wall pizza stop, and it comes with mostly positive reviews.

Best Late Night 2020 (from Reykjavik Grapeline): <https://grapevine.is/best-of-reykjavik/2020/02/28/best-of-reykjavik-2020-best-late-night-bite/>

THE OPENERS

Superb openers will kick things off this three night stand, allowing us to break in the dance floor with some high quality jams and shreddy guitars before Umphrey's even touches the stage.



A strong rhythm section guiding improvisational fun is the modus operandi of this supergroup, featuring Marc Brownstein from Disco Biscuits, Rob Marscher of the Addison Groove Project, Danny Mayer from the Eric Krasno Band, and drummer Marlon Lewis who has played with artists like Lauryn Hill and French Monatana. Their style is more varied than your standard funk, fusing elements from psychedelia, jazz and hip hop to craft thorough and interesting jams.



This Long Island Four Piece needs no introduction. Having been Umphrey's family for over a half decade, now they're going to the North with us. Looking for some study material? Check out their Real Tauk Live Series, or their most recent studio album Shapeshifter II, and we're certain you'll be looking forward to dancing around the Harpa to epic synthy, key heavy progressive rock instrumentals.



Iceland's Very Own. Formed when they were twelve years old, this Zeppelin influenced three piece now tours all across Europe spreading their psychedelic, heavy metal sound. Less improvisation, more head banging, high energy and constructed shredding. The Vintage Caravan just recently wrapped up a tour supporting metal legends Opeth.

Late Night Music

**LIMPHREY'S
MCGEE**

OFFICIAL
RÖCKJAVIK

LATE NIGHT SHOWS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>MARCH 20 HARD ROCK TALK</p> <p>GUAKURRIN JEN HARTSWICK & HER BAND OF HEATHENS</p> | <p>MARCH 21 HARD ROCK STAR KITCHEN</p> <p>GUAKURRIN JASON HUBER (OF CHERUB) PRESENTS ALL PRINCE. ALL VINYL. ALL NIGHT.</p> | <p>MARCH 22 HARD ROCK TALKING MCGEE</p> <p>GUAKURRIN THE VINTAGE CARAVAN</p> |
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LIMPHREYS.IS

Museums & Culture

Reykjavik Art Museum Asmundarsafn *Sigtun, Reykjavik 105, Iceland*

Dedicated to the sculptures and drawings of Ásmundur Sveinsson (1893–1982). If you are into sculptures or visual arts, Asmundur created some beautiful works. Thematically, most of his work focused on men and women in their jobs. As time went on, his works became more abstract. The museum houses the artist's home & studio, an elegant sculpture garden with 30 of Asmundur's sculptures. A large number of his works, and related artists' works, are housed within the museum.

Arnarholl Statue *Arnarholl, Reykjavik 116, Iceland*

Situated on a hill, overlooking Reykjavik Harbor's east end, is the Ingólfur Arnarson statue on Arnarholl. According to Icelandic Folklore, Ingólfur Arnarson was the founder of the country in 874 with his wife Hallveig Froadottir, and his brother Hjörleifr Hróðmarsson, though very little evidence of his settlement exists and there were probably Hiberno-Scottish monks living in Iceland before 874. Still, this statues represents Icelandic heritage and mythology, and the hill it is located on has a magnificent view of the Harpa and the surrounding bay, which itself may be well worth the jaunt.

Reykjavik City Hall *Tjarnargata, Reykjavik 101, Iceland*

The architecture of the city center is nothing special, but the building is located in a beautiful quarter of the city. The Hall itself has one main attraction, a large 3D map of Iceland which allows you to see the unique topography of the island. For tourists out and about, this location also has clean bathrooms and phone lockers where you can charge your dying device. Not worth a special trip, but well worth it to pop-in if you're in the area, and definitely check out the lake nearby which is often full of swans and has a nice view of the residential area surrounding it.

Sculpture and Shore Walk *Saebraut 101, Reykjavik 105, Iceland*

A gorgeous walk with the growing city on one side and the ocean on the other. Along the path are sculptures touching on a wide array of cultural and historical topics. On clear days, views of Mt Esja (alt. 2999ft) are beyond compare. A great way to get your bearings in the city, enjoy a nice walk outside and get some sun on an beautiful day.

The Icelandic Punk Museum *Bankastraeti 2 | Underground, Reykjavik 101, Iceland*

Located at Bankastraeti Zero, the old public toilets in the bottom of the main street, where the old equipment is still visible among the posters and tidbits of history. The whole place has a very authentic, DIY motif, tons of posters on the walls, punk rock blasting through the speakers.

Einar Jonsson Museum *Listasafn Einars Jonssonar) Eiríksgata, Reykjavik 101, Iceland*

A small sculpture museum dedicated to one of Reykjavik's most famous artists. Drawing his inspiration from Icelandic Folklore, Jonsson focused on creating art for art's sake and not being wedded to a particular style or motif. His works are both realistic and also marred in symbolism, and allow each piece to be both striking on face value, and revealing when investigated further.

Saga Museum *Grandagardur 2, Reykjavik 101, Iceland*

The Saga Museum focuses on the history and folklore of Iceland as written by Snorri Sturluson. This is a wax museum with seventeen scenes that depict major elements of the Saga. The Waxworks are supposedly very well done. Visitors are given audio guides that are entertaining and informative. While the historical accuracy of these Sagas is in question, this is some of the best information that we have from the 'Viking Age' and the establishment of the country, and are required knowledge for anyone who is interested in the history of Iceland. But it is a wax museum, and if history isn't your thing, then this would not be the spot for you.

Kjarvalsstaðir *Flókagata 24, 105 Reykjavík, Iceland*

This museum houses the works of artist Jóhannes S. Kjarval. He is considered by many to be the quintessential Icelandic painter. His style varied widely throughout his lifetime, drawing on many different influences. His works can be anything from soft pieces of impressionism to trippy cubic or expressionist works. They also have temporary exhibits of international artists and sculptures. Included in the city card.

Perlan Museum *Varmahlid 1 | Oskjuhlid, Reykjavik 105, Iceland*

Sitting atop Öskjuhlíð Hill, the Perlan is an absolutely stunning piece of architecture, created by an immense glass dome that sits atop six water tankers. Inside, the Perlan hosts a large museum that focuses on every element of Iceland's thrilling natural environment. There is a manmade ice cave within the museum itself, created to teach visitors about Iceland's glaciers, and a world class planetarium with shows about the Northern Lights and views of the galaxy above the little island. If you want to learn some additional information about the landscapes you will adventure through in Iceland, the Perlan is the place to go.

Volcano House *Tryggvagata 11, Reykjavik 101, Iceland*

A popular exhibit in Reykjavik which provides historical and scientific information on Iceland's volcanoes. The museum showcases different lava rocks and gemstones formed by the volcanoes. The hands-on portion of the exhibit is free. The movies regarding the history of explosions and their role in forming the island and changing the community who lives in the country cost about 15 bucks.

Iceland Maritime Museum

Boating has played a large role in the development of Iceland, and the Maritime Museum highlights its history in the country. Housed in an old fish factory, the collection focuses on the fishing industry, and the 'cod wars', a series of confrontations between the United Kingdom and Iceland on fishing rights in the North Atlantic. Iceland won each of the three fish related fights. Included in the city card.

Museum of Photography *Tryggvagata 15, top floor*

This museum houses a vast amount of photography from and about Iceland. Their mission is to make as much of their collection available to the public as possible, and you can view

thousands of modern and historical works from their archive. Included in the city card.

AÐALSTRÆTI 10

Built in 1762, this house in the center of Reykjavik is the oldest building in the city. When the house was built, the city was just becoming a small village. Now it is a permanent exhibit focusing on the history of Reykjavik as it grew up around this building. It's a cool place to walk past even if you're not into history.

Natural History Museum *Hamraborg 6, Kópavogur, Iceland*

The Settlement Exhibit *Adalstraeti 16, Reykjavik 101, Iceland*

This is another one of those spots that will mostly appeal to history buffs. An open excavation site in the middle of the city. Uncovered during building work, the earliest ruins of human settlement in Iceland are combined with an interactive, multimedia entrenched exhibit. There is much to learn here and it is presented in an easy-to-absorb fashion. Included on the City Card.

National Museum of Iceland *Suðurgata 41, 101 Reykjavík*

Focused on the history of Iceland from settlement to modernity. Full of artifacts, exhibits and information, an absolute must for history buffs. There are lots of artifacts collected from all over the country.

National Gallery of Iceland *Fríkirkjuvegur 7, 101 Reykjavík*

One of Iceland's oldest collection of art. Established in 1884, this museum focuses on 18th – 21st century art of all forms, but especially sculptures and paintings. Free with the city card.

Icelandic Phallogical Museum *Laugavegur 116, 105 Reykjavík*

Probably the strangest on our list - a museum dedicated to...penises. There is a free audio guide in English. It is not a large museum, but does contain the penises of every Icelandic species and more – 215 penises in total. Not for the faint of heart.

Arbaer Open Air Museum *4, 110, Kistuhylur, Reykjavík*

Open air museum representing what life was like for farmers and ranchers throughout Reykjavik's history, with buildings dating as back as the 19th century. There are over 20 different buildings of a historical nature on the lot, along with tour guides and people on site who explain the process of ranching throughout Iceland's history. Winner of the Iceland Museum of the Year 2006 award. Included in the city card.

Hafnarhús *Tryggvagata 17, 101 Reykjavík*

Utilizing an old harbor warehouse, this museum focuses on the pop art of Erro (b1932), a true visual genius who focuses on collages that brings in a comic book style to pop figures and creates a style both familiar and unique. Located in one of the oldest parts of Reykjavik.

Ásmundarsafn *Sigtún 105, Reykjavík*

A unique modern visual art museum focusing on paintings and sculptures, especially those of Icelandic artist Ásmundur Sveinsson. Asmundur liked to craft sculptures of people or mythology, and his works were often displayed around the city.

A FEW HIGHLY SUGGESTED SIGHTS

THE ICELANDIC PUNK MUSEUM



THE GOLDEN CIRCLE



ICELANDIC PHALLOLOGICAL MUSEUM



ARBAER OPEN AIR MUSEUM



THINGVELLIR NATIONAL PARK



KRYSUVIK GEOTHERMAL AREA

BLUE LAGOON



HALLGRIMSKIRKJA



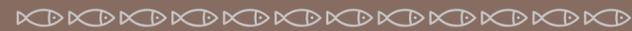
THE SETTLEMENT EXHIBITION



EIMVERK DISTILLERY



PERLAN MUSEUM



GULLFOSS

Hot Springs & Geothermal Baths

Blue Lagoon *Nordurljosavegur 9, Grindavik 240, Iceland*

Considered to be one of the "25 Wonders of the World" by National Geographic magazine, Blue Lagoon is an extremely popular thermal reservoir located about 50 minutes from Reykjavik. The waters of the blue lagoon are Gatorade style blue, with many skin rejuvenating minerals like silica and algae constantly flowing into the pool. Located in the massive, 800 year old UNESCO Geopark lava field in the center to the Reykjanes Peninsula. The pool is part of a resort, and has the "resort feel" to it which means that there will be tons of families and tourists, as this is often considered a "must do" for many who travel through the island. Due to this, we have been told by many friends that paying extra for the more private pool will get you adequate distance from most families. There are also some fairly observant lifeguards throughout the location, which gives it a less private feel. Prices are around \$100 per person, and prebooking is required.

Website: <https://www.bluelagoon.com/explore>

Secret Lagoon *Hvammsvegur, 845 Flúðir, Iceland*

Secret Lagoon is a less luxurious, more rustic hot springs experience nearish Reykjavik. Located in the Golden Circle area, the waters are located in a single outdoor pool that is surrounded by simple, stone facilities. The lava rocks are located right under your feet,

keeping you nice and warm the entire soak. The scenery surrounding the pool is amazing. There is no Gatorade Blue colored waters, but there is also far fewer people, and the hot springs itself is not part of a luxury hotel. It's also quite a bit cheaper, close to \$30 per person. It's also further away from Reykjavik than the Blue Lagoon. So there are pros and cons. Depending on what you are going for, this will have a "More natural and private" but far "Less Luxurious" feeling to it. The water remains around 38-40 Celsius (around 100 degrees Fahrenheit) all year round.

Website: <https://secretlagoon.is/>

Laugarvatn Fontana Geothermal Baths *Laugarbraut, Laugarvatn, Iceland*

Located in the center of the golden circle, this facility is located next to a giant lake. A combination of interconnected baths and steam rooms allows travelers to soak and steam over a natural hot spring that has been in use since 1929. This place combines *some* of the qualities of Blue Lagoon and Secret Lagoon. The surrounding scenery is cool, and there is beautiful stone artwork that lines the pool, but one could hardly call the amenities rustic. There are far fewer people at Laugarvatn due to its distance from Reykjavik. Many Golden Circle bus tours include a stop at Laugarvatn.

Website: <https://www.fontana.is/>

Myvatn Nature Bath *Jarðbaðshólar, 660 Mývatn, Iceland*

Are you taking the Ring Road? Then you may want to consider a stop at Myvatn. Located very far north on the island, Myvatn is nearby Reykjahild and the Grjotagja Cave. It combines the rusticness of "Secret Lagoon" with the Gatorade blue waters of Blue Lagoon. The surrounding landscape is absolutely breathtaking and the waters seem beautiful and sparsely populated. The perfect combination of 'off the beaten path' and 'luxury'.

Website: <https://myvatnnaturebaths.is/>

Iceland may be cold, but the population has adapted and found fun ways to keep warm in the winter time. Outside of the "Lagoons" mentioned above, Iceland also has tons of public geothermal pools – more akin to your standard summertime swimming pools. Reykjavik has several of these within the city limits, many of these are included on the City Card. Because they are public "pools", some of them will have a more family-oriented vibe, but depending on when you are there and who you are with, that may not matter at all.

Breidholtslaug *Austurberg 5, 111 Reykjavik, Iceland*

Jacuzzi, saunas, two outdoor and one indoor pool, two waterslides and a childrens slide, and a wading pool for the kids. This spot may have a family vibe, but it also has some excellent facilities to get a soak in if your muscles are tired from dancing. Open until 10pm.

Árbæjarlaug *Fylkisvegur 9, 110 Reykjavík, Iceland*

Another large facility that has facilities for both adults and children. Here there are three jacuzzis, a steam bath, a sauna, water slides and fountains for children, and an outdoor pool. Located very close to the Árbær Open Air Museum. Their hours vary so make sure to check their website for further details.

Sundhöllin *Barónsstígur 45a, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland*

The oldest outdoor pool in Reykjavik, originally built in 1937 but recent updated with new outdoor pools, jacuzzis, and an ice bath. This pool has a more "adult" feel than some of the others. There are a few strange rules: No mobile phones, not at all; Wash body naked with soap before bath; Dry yourself excessively before re-entering the dressing room. Popular with tourists and locals alike.

Golden Circle Route

There are three primary stops on the popular "Golden Circle" tourist route in Iceland: Thingvellir, the Gullfoss Waterfall, and the Haukadalur Geothermal Area, which contains infamous geysers. There are also several spin off stops nearby the "proper route" (*several marked with an asterisk here*), which allow you to customize your visit and see things (*relatively*) off the beaten path.

Thingvellir National Park

About 25 miles from Reykjavik is the magnificent Thingvellir National Park, a place of ecological and historical importance. The park is associated with the Althing, the island's national parliamentary system, which was established in 930AD and was held in the park until 1798. Designation as a national park was formally made in 1930, the 1000th anniversary of the first Althing. The park lies on the Mid-Atlantic ridge, forming the boundary between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. Cracks and faults are visible within the part, the largest one, called Almannagja, is practically a canyon. There are beautiful valleys and waterfalls located throughout the park, and the clear water within the tectonic fissures has made this popular scuba diving location as well. Thingvellir is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Silfra Fissure*

Located within Thingvellir National Park. Some of the clearest, cleanest water that there is on the planet. Divers can scuba here in the fissure between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates.

Gullfoss Waterfall

Considered by many to be Iceland's most beautiful waterfall, this natural epic has a unique several step plunge that carries with it hundreds of gallons of water a second. Its width, shape and strength make for a spectacular sight. The combination of breathtaking landscape, sheets of ice, and the thundering crash of the waves is unreplaceable anywhere else in the world, It is one of the most popular attractions in Iceland.

Haukadalur Geothermal Area

The area is a hotbed of geothermal activity, with tons of nearby mud pools and fumaroles. The Haukadalur includes Stokkur, a giant reliable geyser that erupts every 6 – 10 minutes, sometimes reaching up to 130 feet in height. The Great Geysir, which used to erupt up to 230 feet in the air, but in recent years it has gone completely silent, is also within this area. There are around 30 other small geothermal pools and geysers.

Skálholt*

A large compound once considered the 'most important place in Iceland', Skálholt is pretty much a large community built up around a cathedral, and was a cultural and political center for Iceland's religious community. The first official school in the country was founded at Skálholt, and the location served as an episcopal see for the Catholic church. It is a place of historical significance.

Kerid*

A volcanic crater lake. One of several in the area, though this one is likely most picturesque, diving 180 feet from the top and 560 feet wide, with large swathes of the steep, red caldera peeping out from sparse, patchy moss. The area land owners charge an entrance fee to see the crater of 400 ISK.

Pórufoss*

A beautiful waterfall that is off the beaten path. While it's less complex and grandiose than Gullfoss, it is still quite striking and set upon a beautiful backdrop. Not only that, but it offers solitude rarely found along the golden circle.

Sólheimar Ecovillage*

A wonderful eco-village renowned for its ecological, artistic and community ethics. Currently housing around 100 people, Solheimar is located along the Golden Circle and is an excellent example of harmonious living. A pioneer of organic farming and recycling, Solheimar relies on geothermal energy and currently has an organically certified greenhouse, arboretum and egg production facility.

Thjorsardalur*

About 45 minutes east of Solheimar is a beautiful valley called Thjorsardalur. It's somewhat off the path from the rest of the Golden Circle route. The valley contains waterfalls, a natural hot springs, and the Þjóðveldisbærinn Stöng, a farm that was buried in ash after the 1104 Hekla eruption. It was unearthed and partially reconstructed in 1974. Considered by many to be the Gateway to Iceland's Highlands, Thjorsardalur has enough around that you could make an entire daytrip of that locale itself. Make sure to do some further research on this spot if you plan to go.

Seljalandsfoss*

A very tall waterfall that is extremely picturesque and occasionally freezes in the winter,

making for a dramatic site no matter the season. The waterfall drops around 197ft and is part of the Seljalands River, whose origin is the volcano glacier Eyjafjallajökull. Travelers can hike behind the falls into a small cave in good weather.

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS



- If the skies are clear and the Aurora is active, the northern lights ARE able to be viewed from Reykjavik. The best places to view from the city are close to the waterfront and away from streetlights.
- Best places within the city include Öskuhlið Hill and the Gróttta lighthouse, both of which have little light pollution, but will be popular spots when the Aurora is visible.
- Great places outside of the city to see the Northern Lights include Lake Kleifarvatn, Lake Hafrvatn, and Reykjanesviti lighthouse.
- Further out, places like Vík, the Ásbyrgi Canyon, Jökulsárlón, and Seljavallalaug are all beautiful backdrops for seeing the sky lights.

Northern Lights

So...what are the Northern Lights?

The Northern Lights are caused by disturbances in Space to charged particles by solar winds. The disturbance to the magnetosphere causes the particles to precipitate toward our planet's surface, causing ionization which emits light of varying color and convolution.

Where can I see the Northern Lights in/near Reykjavik?

If the skies are clear and the Aurora is active, the northern lights ARE able to be viewed from the capitol city. Many guides suggest that the best place to go is closest to the waterfront so that you can avoid some of the light pollution from streetlamps.

Strolling down the north shore scenic and sculpture walk is an excellent way to view the Northern Lights without having to leave the city. Another suggestion is to go out to the Gróttta lighthouse on the Seltjarnarnes peninsula. This is probably the most popular spot within the city to see the Northern Lights and may get packed with people. The peninsula ends at the lighthouse on Grotta Island which is filled with unique birds and a compact footbath geothermal pool. This spot is far enough from the downtown area that the Aurora Borealis should be slightly brighter than it would be within the city proper.

Öskuhlið hill

Is a large hill on top of which stands The Perlan Museum. From the top, views of the Aurora Borealis are possible. This is a good spot to get great glimpses of the entirety of Reykjavik, along with the lightshow in the sky.

Kleifarvatn

Is a large lake located south of Reykjavik about a half hour or so outside of the city. It is located right on the Mid-Atlantic fissure and is filled by water coming and going from underground. This is an excellent place moderately close to the city to see the Northern Lights without light pollution or people.

Looking to go further from the city?

Vik

Located along a black beach a few hours south east of Reykjavik, the town of Vik is a cool place to listen to the waves and watch the Northern Lights. You can see the beautiful rock formations, the towns traditional church, and outlines of the Mýrdalsjökull Glacier to add to your view of a beautiful night sky. There are only 300 full time residents of Vik, and while the town is popular with tourists it will be mostly free of light pollution.

Northern Lights Forecast Websites:

Aurora-Service.eu - <http://www.aurora-service.eu/aurora-forecast/>

University of Alaska - <https://www.gi.alaska.edu/monitors/aurora-forecast>

Iceland Aurora Forecast: <https://en.vedur.is/weather/forecasts/aurora/>

Cloud Cover Forecast: <https://en.vedur.is/weather/forecasts/cloudcover/>

9 lies & One Truth Regarding the Northern Lights: <https://www.dangerous-business.com/northern-lights-facts/>

Northern Lights Related Apps:

(note: most apps get mixed reviews from users, some people swearing by them and other people saying that the information is completely off. We hope they end up being helpful, but use at your own risk.)

My Aurora Forecast - Aurora Alerts Northern Lights - /

Northern Eye Aurora Forecast -



History of ICELAND

Timeline:

- **Before 800CE:** A few Celtic Inhabitants
- **Mid800s:** Vikings Accidentally Arrive
- **874:** Reykjavik Established
- **1220:** Norway officially takes over island
- **1380:** Kalmar Union
- **1660:** Scandanavia splits, Iceland joins Denmark-Norway
- **1783:** Volcano Laki erupts, kills ~9000
- **1814:** Norway and Denmark split, Denmark keeps Iceland.
- **1874:** Iceland given relative autonomy
- **1941:** American occupies Iceland during WW2
- **1943:** Iceland becomes its own nation

Iceland was likely originally inhabited by Celtic monks, who left before/when the Vikings arrived around in the 9th century. The first permanent settlement in Iceland was Reykjavik, which may have been established as early as 874CE. After much of the island was inhabited, they established a loose confederations of tribes that held which held an annual meeting called a Þingvellir. After a few hundred years, this confederation broke down into civil war, and by 1220 Norway was officially in charge of the island. Throughout time, Norway's allegiance shifted several times between unions of with Denmark and Sweden, and Iceland's along with it. The country's economy depended on it's ability to trade with with the mainland, and when climate conditions were unfavorable, Iceland suffered. In 1783 the volcano Laki erupted, causing citizens and livestock to die in large numbers. The eruption cause climatic shifts that created a harsh winter and severely disrupted Iceland's economy. As the weather grew worse, many inhabitants emigrated to America. Those who stayed behind began to work towards an independent Iceland. In 1918, Iceland became recognized as its own country, joined in a union with Denmark. Denmark remained neutral during World War Two, leading to an Allied invasion in 1940 for gain a strategic positioning against the Axis. In 1943, Saga Island gained its full independence.



Umphreak's Anonymous' ICELANDIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Pick up a SIM card for full 4G connectivity throughout the island. *Siminn* and *Vodafone* offer the best Pay-As-You-Go Packages. Make sure to your phone is operational *before you leave your purchase location.*
- It will be cold and windy. Sun will start to rise around 6:55am, with full daylight being from around 8:30am – 6pm every day (a total of 9 hours), a lengthy day.
- Don't take a taxi from the airport to Reykjavik - it will be expensive. Instead, take the Flybus. It'll get the job done for around \$33 per person.

Money & Expenses

Iceland always ranks within the top ten of most expensive countries to visit in the world, often times making its way into the top five, keeping company with nations like Norway, Switzerland and Luxembourg. Iceland, like many of the Nordic countries, uses monetary units called Krona. It is represented by the lettering ISK. When doing conversions, make sure

you are using Icelandic Krona, instead of Swedish (SEK) or Norwegian (NOK), as their conversion rates are significantly different. As of the time of writing this, the 1000 ISK is worth:

As a general idea (approximations): beers cost around \$8-\$10 per drink, a 12oz Coca-Cola would cost you \$3, a pack of cigarettes is around \$11, etc. You'll generally pay \$3 to \$5 dollars more per individual sale items. Usually, beer is not available in six packs, and you have to buy each individually.

Sure. Iceland is expensive. Iceland is also unlike any other place in the world. It is our opinion that, if you have the dough, to not try to cheapen out on things you love just because they cost more here than in other parts of the world. How many opportunities will there be for you to return to Iceland? For many of us this is a once in a lifetime ordeal! You've made it there, you've paid your airfare, ticket price and hotel. Now it's time to relax. If that means buying a ten dollar Nordic beer, well then savor each drop, spend a bit more time on it than you usually would, then order another one.

We've also got some Iceland on a Budget suggestions below that are excellent tips for any traveler to the island.

SIM CARDS

SIM Cards may be referred to as "SIMs" or "Chips" in Iceland.

First things first - before you go buying a SIM card, make sure that your phone is *unlocked*, which means it will work on any carrier. Most Verizon phones in the United States are unlocked, and if you have a more recent Google Pixel or iPhone device, you phone will likely be able to swap SIM cards no problem. For all other devices, you want to check with your carrier before you go to make sure you device is unlocked. If it's not, getting a SIM will do you little good. - you may want to consider getting a burner or something that will just work for international trips.

You may also want to get a SIM Card Tool. You can always use a pushpin or a paperclip, but I find that using the SIM card tool is easier - and, honestly, it's somewhat hard to find a pushpin or paperclip - that will fit - when you need one. I've used [these before](#).

Siminn is the largest carrier in Iceland and offers "Pay as You Go" plans. You can pick up a card at many retail outlets, however, we always suggest going into the Carrier's store to ensure that your service is working after you install the chip. There is a Siminn store in downtown Reykjavik as well about 30 minutes from Harpa. If you need a SIM before getting to downtown, the **Eymundsson** in the airport can provide one, however, you'll want to install and activate the chip there to make sure it works. Some folks have suggested Simmin

service is *slightly* better than Vodaphone. 10gb appears to be around \$30 or so. More information is available at <https://www.siminn.is/en/prepaid> / [https://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowTopic-g189970-i594-k11568327-Siminn SIM card purchase question-Reykjavik Capital Region.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowTopic-g189970-i594-k11568327-Siminn_SIM_card_purchase_question-Reykjavik_Capital_Region.html)

Vodafone is the second largest carrier in Iceland and can be considered the competitor to the largest company Siminn. They also offer "Top Up" options and the SIM Card itself is free. You can get Top Up Cards at an 10-11 Convenience Stores (sorta like 7-11s in Iceland) or even get the SIM on many Icelandair flights, however, this breaks what we consider the cardinal rule of "make sure your phone is working before you leave the store". With that in mind, there are Vodaphone stores in Reykjavík at Kringlan Mall and Sudurlandsbraut 8, 108.Reykjavik. It's about \$20 per 5GB. More information is available at <https://vodafone.is/english/information/>.

Both of the above carriers is going to be fairly similar as far as cost and coverage. There is only one Siminn store but it's in downtown Reykjavik, so that will work for most people. The Vodaphone stores are near downtown Reykjavik, so also very convenient – there's one on the way in to town if you're driving but lost without your Google Maps. From coverage maps, it looks like they both have the same 4G coverage in Reykjavik & the Golden Road, and 3G/4G coverage along the ring road and the other major locations in Iceland. Both have English websites, making topping up and getting support easy.

Food & Drink

Buying liquor in Nordic countries requires some forethought, which certainly seems annoying but is something you can clearly plan for. **Vínbúdin** is the name of the government run liquor store, if you've spent any time in North Carolina, this is sorta like ABC Stores. There are 13 Vinbudin in the Reykjavik area. Most are open until 1800, but a few are open to 2000.

Important Tip: Once you land in Keflavik airport, you will get the chance to buy liquor at the duty-free shop. This is generally sold at a reduced price and without tax, so it is much cheaper than anywhere else in the country. You may bring in six units per person and someone at the register should be able to help. We highly suggest getting your liquor here, and buying beer with any units you have left over. Booze in Iceland is expensive. Pace yourself, but pregame nicely and then nurse your drinks at the bar.

Unique drinks that you are only able to get in Nordic countries include **Akavit** and Iceland's signature alcoholic beverage, **Brennivin**. Brennivin literally means "Burnt Wine", and is a type of schnapps that is made from distilled potatoes and flavoured with either caraway or angelica. Because of this, and in similar nature to Akavit, it will have an "Angry Gin" type

flavor for the most part. It is considered quite potent, and has been referred to by the name “Black Death” on occasion. It’s an acquired taste for certain, but like black licorice, if you like it – you *really* like it.

When it comes to **tipping** - you can tip for good service if you'd like but tipping is not expected. Most of the time the gratuity is considered as part of the bill.

Grocery Stores in Iceland

Grocery stores in Iceland are relatively inexpensive - but that doesn't mean cheap. If you're crafty enough, you can keep food costs are only slightly more expensive than those at your standard groceries in the US and Iceland...but those additional costs will add up. Iceland has very little of its own meat or produce, and so meats or cheeses are definitely pricier than the states. Groceries are generally stocked with many familiar brands from both the US and the United Kingdom. The **Bonus Iceland** chain has been recommended to us as the best location to get both quality and familiar brand options for decent prices. They have a huge yellow logo with a pink pig mascot. **Kronan** also a big chain on the island and will have a decent selection. Most grocery stores in Reykjavik will not open until 10am.

Vegan Groceries

We love to help research for our plant based homies. You are generally allowed bring up to 6.5 pounds of food into Iceland, depending on what it is. So if you have a favorite vegan dish that you couldn't live without and it's easy to pack, this might be a smart and affordable way to go for a couple meals. We have heard that the megastore/big box store **Hagkaup** has a lot of vegan cheese options. It is a bit more expensive than your standard grocery. Both **Kronan** and **Bonus** will have vegan options. From what I have seen, there is a fair amount of fake meat options and produce in Icelandic grocery stores. There also appears to be a premade 'vegan wrap' at most markets.

One thing to watch out for: the word 'Vega' in Icelandic means '*road*', not '*vegan*'. Do not confuse the two, you may end up eating animal products without intending to ([as this lady did](#)). The word for Vegan in Icelandic is just plain 'Vegan'.

Transportation into Reykjavik from the Keflavik Airport (KEF)

Flybus is probably the best option for most Umphreaks. With the Flybus, it *might/probably* makes the most sense to get the “*Transfer between Keflavik Airport & Reykjavik Hotels*” ticket, which takes you to the city’s central station where you transfer to another bus that will take you to most of the hotels in the area. This ticket is around \$33 per person. This way you can avoid slogging your luggage around from place to place. There are lots of advantages to the

Flybus – it's easily the most frequent bus at the airport, they rearrange their schedule to accommodate the airport arrival schedule, your ticket is valid on any Skybus so if you miss one, you can snag the next one, and if you choose to prebook guarantees you a seat.

For about \$15 more per person, you can ride with Airport Direct, but there are major limitations to their system. They have you register for a particular time slot, so we are not certain what happens if you miss your timeframe due to delays. Additionally, their buses only run until 5:15pm, so you would not be able to use this service in the evening. Lastly, there is a cost for baggage over one carry-on and one checked bag. So this is the quickest option, but probably the most limited otherwise.

Taking a taxi from the airport is *not* a great idea. It will cost you around \$280 for the cab. If you split that four ways, that's still \$70 a person. Save that dough for raging instead and take a dangolde bus.

There are rides from the Airport to Blue Lagoon, if you're looking to go directly there before checking in. Let's say you've been on a flight all night, you're exhausted but can't crash out, and you can't check into your hotel as of yet. Traveling straight to the spa for a day of lazing around might be the perfect refresher. Tickets for round trip are around \$25 per person and does not include Lagoon admission (which is around \$100). Keep in mind that all reservations at the Blue Lagoon must be prebooked.

Parking

Parking in Iceland is generally free, but you do occasionally need to pay for it in downtown Reykjavik. The downtown area is split into several different zones (as illustrated on [this site](#)) - the rule of thumb is: the closer you get to Laugavegur, one of the the main thoroughfare and shopping street in the city, the more expensive it will be.

If you see a Blue "P" parking sign next to your spot, you will have to go to the machine, punch in your license plate and pay. The machines take card or coin.

There are also several multi-level garages in the downtown area who will generally charge around 100ISK - 250ISK per hour.

It is always free to park on Sundays. In most areas, it is free to park on the street after 6pm. In Zones 1, 2 and 3, parking fees are enforced from 9am - 6pm.

It's always worth it to check if your hotel has a free lot for patrons or is aware of any free or cheap parking nearby. They should point you in the right direction.

[More info.](#)

Outlets

Iceland uses two prong EU outlets. There are several EU to US Outlet converters, usually covering several other regions as well. I have used several of these [chunky charging bricks](#) before, they are excellent.

Iceland outlets also run at 230 volts, which is a higher voltage than we have in the united states. Most new electronics are dual voltage and can handle between 120v - 240v, but double check for details.

More information about outlets in Iceland can be found [here](#).

The City Pass

If you are planning to engage in more than one cultural activity on their list, the City Pass seems to be an excellent deal. For around \$60/3 Days, you receive entrance into 13 museums, 12 City Geothermal Pools, the Zoo, and rides on all buses within the city limits. If you don't plan to rent a car, this is an excellent way to avoid the cold and catch some of the unique historical and artistic parts of Icelandic culture – and then go for a soak. A 72 hour pass is 6700ISK (~\$55 USD). The only major drawback to the City Pass is that it doesn't include some of the most popular museums, like The Perlan or the Icelandic Punk Museum. Make sure attractions you're interested in seeing are on the list. We've included this information in our guide for the museums that have been suggested to us.

Website: <https://visitreykjavik.is/city-card/front>

On A Budget

Stay at a hostel. There are many hostels in Reykjavik, and if you're okay with a bunk bed, sleeping in the same room as other people or using a shared bathroom, you will easily be able to find a spot. The **Kex Hostel in Reykjavik** receives high ratings from Google (4.4) for as low as \$37 a night (for a bed in a giant dormitory room of 46 other beds). The **Galaxy Pod Hostel** is a little bit further away from the venue, and is a bit more expensive than Kex, but also receives high ratings.

Make your Own Food. Making your own food will be essential to living Iceland on a budget. This may be harder or easier depending on where you're staying, but buying food in restaurants will most certainly drive up your cost of vacation. See our "Grocery Stores in Iceland" section.

Buy alcohol duty free. Buying alcohol at the duty free shops in the KEF airport is also extremely helpful. Beer, wine and spirits have extremely high taxes in Iceland and, if you plan to consume, your best way to save dough is to do so at your home-away-from-home.

Use public transit. Consider using the Public Transit and walking. It will take longer, but it will

be significantly cheaper. Renting cars or taking taxis is expensive but often more comfortable in this cold environment, but Reykjavik is extremely walk-able. You are definitely able to get from one side of the city to another in an hour or so if you hoof it. Just make sure to bundle up.

Find free things to do. There are tons of free options in Reykjavik if you know where to look. There are free walking tours that you can utilize (you will need to tip the guide but...) it is generally quite affordable an easy way to see the city and get tons of information. There are lots of churches that are beautiful and free to enter, and if the weather is nice, tons of parks within the city as well.

See things using the City Pass Card. If you have a little money to spend, you can pick up a City Pass Card (detailed in another part of this guide). For relatively not too much dough, you get to see some excellent museums, swim in some public geothermal pools, and ride the bus all for one relatively affordable price.

Weather

It is very likely to be cold and windy. They say there's no such thing as bad weather in Iceland, just bad clothes – if you come prepared for the cold and you'll have a wonderful time. We've used Balaclavas like [these](#) and have found them very useful in cold weather situations.

During the timeframe we will be in Iceland, the sun will start to rise around 6:55am, with full daylight being from around 8:30am – 6pm every day (a total of 9 hours), a lengthy day but there will be a distinctive day and night cycle, allowing us to get a standard amount of Rest as a vital part of the Rage > Rest > Repeat itinerary.

Road Conditions

You have probably read *a lot* about roads being closed in Iceland. Roads close frequently due to weather conditions, even the main roads, but they do not remain closed all winter. People in other parts of the island have to get around – but, you have to remain malleable. Primary roads, referred to as S Roads, should generally be accessible, but this does not mean that they are safe, nor does it mean they are open from destination to destination. Check the Icelandic Roads website (listed below) before setting off on any adventure.

Icelandic roads stay open in conditions you would never consider driving in, conditions that would easily close down Colorado I-70 mountain passes. Snow is not considered the major danger by Icelanders, but instead it is the unruly wind that sends gravel and rocks flying at commuters. Flexibility is *key* when you are driving outside of Reykjavik – if you do not have

the time/ability to wait, can't afford to lose a reservation, then driving in the winter is probably not a good choice. Taking a tour bus might be significantly safer, as the bus and its driver are conditioned for the Icelandic winter and will get you where you're going safe.

Emergency Services in Iceland: Dial 112

Official Road Conditions: <http://www.road.is/>

How to Read the Road Conditions in Iceland: <https://safetravel.is/blog/read-road-conditions-iceland>

SafeTravel Site: <https://safetravel.is/>

Skiing

Blafjoll - one of two skiing hills that are relatively close to Reykjavik. This one is located on the South-West side of the city. It takes about a half hour or forty five minutes to get to Blafjoll. We believe it costs around \$35 to ski here. If you're used to skiing in Montana, Utah or Colorado, these mountains and runs will seem small, but the fact that you're skiing in a foreign country has its own novelty. With 14 lifts and several cross country runs, Blafjoll is the largest of the two ski areas.

Skálafell - is the smaller of the two ski areas that are relatively close. It only has four lifts, and is only open during weekends from beginning of February to middle of April, in general. This resort is almost all easy and intermediate runs, and is more a 'locals hill' than it is a ski destination, but you can definitely get a few runs in here if you're in the area.

It can be somewhat hard to figure out if the mountains are open or not - all the runs may be showing "red" on [the website](#), but you'll still see pictures on Instagram of people skiing. Make sure to check [their Facebook](#) for any recent closures and up-to-date information before you head out.

UMPHREAK'S ANONYMOUS
CREATED 2019
UPDATED 2020

UMPHREY'S MCGEE

MARCH 20: The Vintage Caravan 7pm / Umphrey's McGee 8:30
MARCH 21: Tauk 7pm / Umphrey's McGee 8:30
MARCH 22: Star Kitchen 7pm / Umphrey's McGee 8:30

