

# REYKJAVIK

Reykjavík is the capital and largest city of Iceland. However, Reykjavík is a small town and easy to navigate and walk in. It is built around a harbour and the main city centre is chiefly a few streets. There is a design area to visit and great museums and parks to explore. It is a beautiful city and there are many walking tracks that you can follow, even a circular route around the city and to the beaches. You can also hire bikes at several places around town to explore the city, available at the main bus stop or down at the harbour.

## FROM THE AIRPORT

Keflavík International Airport is Iceland's main international airport and is 50 kilometres east of Reykjavík. Interestingly, on the drive from the airport into the city centre, you can see steam rising from the black volcanic soil and smell volcanic gases in the bus – lovely.

The easiest and most cost effective way to get into town is to take the Shuttle Bus. The drive takes 45 minutes, after which you change into shuttles which stop near your hotel. The shuttle stops at assigned bus stops, from where it is a short walk to your hotel.



Hallgrímskirkja ©RagnarThSigurdsson/Visit Reykjavik

## CULTURE FASCINATIONS

**Perlan (The Pearl)** - Reykjavík's landmark, the Perlan, is a unique piece of architecture - built in 1988. On top of the large tanks in which natural hot water is stored for heating the city, is a rotating glass dome restaurant serving evening meals. The dome also contains a cafe, while around the outside is a viewing platform with beautiful panoramic 360-degree views of the city and its surroundings. Access to the viewing platform is free of charge. Photo opportunity not to be missed!

**Church of Hallgrímur (Hallgrímskirkja)** - Probably the most controversial building in Iceland. Its steeple rises above all other buildings in Reykjavík and the church can seat over 1000 worshipers at a time. The grounds also house a statue to the first Viking said to have discovered America, Leifur Eiríksson.

**Videy Island** - This is a unique site that combines history, culture and nature, and is only a few minutes away by boat. Videy was inhabited until the 1940s and it is here that you can find Videyjarstofa, the oldest stone building in Iceland built for the High Sheriff in 1752. There are hiking paths around the island, which is renowned for its varied bird life.

**Waterfront & Sun Voyager** - The city's northern waterfront is a popular area, with a view of Reykjavík's landmark mountain, Mt. Esja. The striking sculpture Sun Voyager by Jon Gunnar Arnanon stands here. It is a massive steel sculpture in the shape of a Viking ship.



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©Dany Sternfeld



Videy Island ©Luc Coekaerts

## BUT WAIT, THERE IS MORE

**Watch the Whales** - For an exciting sea adventure, try one of the many whale-watching tours that are available from Reykjavik. The ocean around the city is a natural habitat for many types of whales (dolphins and seals are often seen, too.) Tours also pass by Puffin Island. The whale watching season runs from late March to late October. Another exciting option is to catch your own fresh fish on a seaangling cruise, which is now offered by some of the boat operators.

**The Blue Lagoon** - While the Blue Lagoon is not situated within the Reykjavik city area, this attraction is an absolute “must” for travellers and the major attraction for many Reykjavik visitors. The thermal waters are always pleasantly warm, whatever the weather.

## CULINARY EXPERIENCES

The key elements of the Icelandic diet have changed very little since the country's settlement over a thousand years ago, with the most popular dishes still being fish, lamb and the Icelandic skyr. But modern chefs have become more imaginative, infusing new ingredients with ancient recipes.

Try one of the Hot-Dog places that are found everywhere. This German import has become thoroughly Iceland-ized. Ask for “Eina með öllu”, a hot dog with everything on it. There are many fantastic fish restaurants in Reykjavik. The more expensive ones are down by the harbour or in the centre, the more budget-friendly options are towards the old town. Við Tjörnina is always a good choice.



## RESTAURANTS

**Nostra Restaurant** - Nostra is an Icelandic fine dining restaurant with an emphasis on Icelandic seasonal tasting menus. We provide our guests with a unique culinary experience, where fresh local produce and ingredients are prepared and served with care and passion.

Address: Laugavegi 59, 2nd floor, Reykjavik 101  
Phone: +354 519 3535

**Icelandic Street Food** - Icelandic Street Food is the first fast food concept in Iceland with traditional Icelandic food, the idea was to give all visitors of the country the fullest experience of home made Icelandic traditional food without going out and spending fortune for fine dining. Try shellfish soup and Icelandic pancakes.

Address: Laekjargata 8 and Laugarvegur 85, Reykjavik 101  
Phone: +354 519 5125

**Hlemmur Food Hall** - Hlemmur Food Hall (Mathöll) is inspired by the great European food halls. Here, 10 ambitious vendors provide a sample of the best food Iceland has to offer.

Address: Laugavegur 107, 105 Reykjavik  
Phone: +354 577 6200

**Grandi Food Hall** - Grandi Mathöll is the obvious destination for anyone who loves to explore delicious food, quality products and culture. It is a unique and pioneering street-food hall in the old harbour district of Reykjavik, offering both traditional Icelandic cuisine and dishes from elsewhere in the world. It is located in the Iceland Ocean Cluster, which is part of the most innovative area in town, celebrating Icelandic culture and industry.

Address: Grandagarður 16, 101 Reykjavik  
Phone: +354 577 6200

**The Icelandic Bar (Íslenski Barinn)** - This bar serves delicious traditional Icelandic food at a very reasonable cost. The restaurant itself is lovely with outside tables available overlooking the small park across the road and catching the afternoon sun.

Address: Íslenski Barinn, Ingólfsstræti 1a  
Tel: +354 517 6767

**Saegreifinn** - An extremely authentic place serves a wonderful lobster soup and offers grilled cod, whale, shrimps and salmon. Excellent atmosphere, a must-see!

Address: Geirsgata 8  
Phone: +354 553 1500

