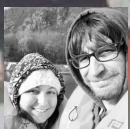




Travel Guides designed by insiders.

# THE BEST OF REYKJAVIK

Everything you need to know to make your trip to Reykjavik, Iceland, one you'll never forget, no matter what size your budget is.



Randy Kalp & Bethany Salvon  
Travel Writer, Photographer, Bloggers

# ABOUT US

## THE BUGGL TEAM.

We are a small team banded together to solve the major problems that exist around travel planning. We've lived in your shoes for years, trying to seek authentic and matched trip advice to no avail. Buggl was built as your vehicle to ride in every time you need inspiration about a place to go.

## OUR MISSION.

Our goal is to give people a better opportunity to experience delightful life moments when they travel. This only happens when people begin to trust in one another and not on reviews or ratings of places online anymore. Bringing the life back to travel means pulling local people out of the shadows of those review sites and onto a place where they share their expertise on what they love to do in their location. It's only possible to travel well by harnessing the relationship between travelers and locals.

Our aim is give everyone an equal chance to have beautiful trips.

## OUR STORY.

This isn't a company. If you unraveled our DNA it would read like a passport stamped with ink from all over the world. We've each had unique and memorable experiences traveling down the street or around the world that have changed us as individuals and humans. If you've traveled like us, you know it's possible to grow as a person when you travel right. If you haven't traveled like us, this platform will give you the ability to do so. It's time to TRUST in other people again to help navigate you through the world.



## ABOUT ME



## Randy Kalp & Bethany Salvon

Travel Writer, Photographer,  
Bloggers

**Traveler Since**

1978

**Age**

36

**Interests and Activities**

Storytelling, Photography, Traveling  
and Good Beer

### WHO AM I?

We were professionals in the newspaper and wedding industries before setting our sights on long term travel. Now you can wander with us online through our blog, Beers and Beans. Our stories have appeared in National Geographic Intelligent Travel, Men's Health, The Coast News, San Diego Uptown News and a variety of other travel publications.

### WHAT I KNOW ABOUT TRAVEL?

Our award winning combination of storytelling and photography has enabled us to travel near and afar in search for the unusual, the mundane, the beautiful and the forgotten. The only thing we love more than experiential travel is sharing our discoveries with others.





## OVERVIEW

In recent years, Iceland's capital, Reykjavik, has emerged as a hip alternative to major European powerhouses, such as Paris and Rome. Brimming with fashionista charm, Reykjavik, dotted with boutiques, cafés and colorful two-tone houses, is a city made for walking, and at sundown it transforms into a playground for indie artists who lace the night air with melody well into the wee hours. This guide is perfect for any travel style--luxury to budget--and will give you everything you need to experience the absolute best of Reykjavik.

# LOCAL PERKS AND KNOWLEDGE

Contrary to its name and location—just outside of the Arctic Circle—Iceland boasts a temperate climate. Warmed by the Gulf Stream, summer temperatures are in the high 60s, while winter temperatures drop into the 20s. Additionally, the island boasts unique weather phenomenon, including periods of no sunlight in midwinter, which makes it an ideal place to view the Aurora Borealis.

In Reykjavik, the capital and largest city of Iceland, fashionistas and fisherman share the cobblestone streets outlined by vibrant two-tone houses fitted with corrugated aluminum. Like a cross between a 1940s Monterey, California, and a 21st century Paris, Reykjavik is charming blend of boutiques, cafés and pubs.

Want to know where to get the best authentic Icelandic cuisine? How about the best accommodation for your budget? Or, simple the absolute best spot to capture panoramas of Reykjavik? This guide will answer all those questions and so much more. Really, it's like having a best friend in the city, except you don't have to buy it dinner!

# LOCAL SECRETS





# Hallgrímskirkja Church



## See and Do

Kolavörustigur, Reykjavík, 101, Iceland +354 510 1000

For less than a pint of beer in a Reykjavik pub, you can experience the capital city’s version of New York’s Empire State Building. Rising 244 feet above Reykjavik, Hallgrímskirkja Church’s observation deck, has no competition. Views from the deck offer panoramas of the city, bay and distant mountains. The church, which boasts a minimalist concrete design with clean lines and a behemoth pipe organ, is free; however, the observation deck costs about \$5 to visit.

### RATING



Make Your Trip

### CATEGORY

Kids Views

Spiritual

### NEED TO KNOW

Sight seeing

Architecture

Church

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

The architecture and views.



# Settlement Exhibition

## RATING



Make Your Trip

## CATEGORY

Educational

Kids

Easy-going

## NEED TO KNOW

Historical

Sight seeing

Museum



## See and Do

Adalstraeti 16, Reykjavik, Iceland 354 411 6370

The exhibition revolves around the remains of a 10th century Viking longhouse, possibly the home of Iceland's first settler. Excavated between 2001 and 2005, the longhouse is preserved in its original location and is the main draw of the Settlement Exhibition. Through the use of interactive and multimedia technology, the exhibition gives visitors a look at what life was like for Reykjavik's first settlers. Additionally, the exhibition also features other early artifacts unearthed in the capital city.

## WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Interactive and informative.





# Free walk of Reykjavik Tour



## See and Do

Lækjargata, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland  
holli@gmail.com

The 90-minute guided tour through Reykjavik is a perfect introduction to the city. Great storytelling and an insider's look into Reykjavik's past, present and future are all hallmarks of the walking tour. The tour is free; however, the guides do work for tips—500 krona (less than \$5) is a reasonable gratuity. Because the tour is sponsored by GoEcco, there's some cross promotion for the company's other city tours, but it is nothing that cheapens the experience. The Free Walk of Reykjavik Tour operates daily from May 1 to Sept. 15, rain or shine, with no minimum number of guests needed.

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

It's the perfect introduction to the city.

### RATING



Make Your Trip

### CATEGORY

Easy-going

Walks

Interesting

### NEED TO KNOW

Historical

Sight seeing

Town



# Imagine Peace Tower

## RATING



Make Your Trip

## CATEGORY

Outdoor Views

Beautiful

## NEED TO KNOW

Sight seeing Art

Architecture



## See and Do

Skarfagarðar, 104 Reykjavik, Iceland

A collaboration between Yoko Ono, the City of Reykjavik, Reykjavik Art Museum and Reykjavik Energy, the Imagine Peace Tower is dedicated to John Lennon and located on Videy Island, a short ferry ride from Reykjavik. The inaugural lighting took place on Oct. 9, 2007, the musician's 67th birthday. Since then, the light, which comes from geothermal, shines annually from 9th October to 8th December. The Imagine Peace Tower is also lit during the winter solstice for one week, on New Year's Eve and on Spring Equinox for one week. Ferry information can be found at: <http://videy.com/ferjan/>

## WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Beautiful views of Reykjavik.



# The National Museum of Iceland



## See and Do

Suðurgata 41, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland +354 530 2200

Free on Wednesdays, the National Museum contains everything that our school textbooks failed to mention about Iceland. The "Making of a Nation" is the permanent exhibition at the museum. It contains a mix of artifacts and photographs detailing Iceland's cultural heritage. The exhibition can be completed in a few hours, but like any museum, the longer you stay the more you will take away. The museum also offers free WiFi and has a café for light meals and beverages.

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Inexpensive and highly informative.

### RATING



Make Your Trip

### CATEGORY

Educational

Interesting Kids

### NEED TO KNOW

Historical

Museum

Sight seeing



# Nautholsvik Geothermal Beach

## RATING



Good Detour

## CATEGORY

Outdoor

Active

Kids

## NEED TO KNOW

Beach

Park



## See and Do

Nauthólsvegur, Reykjavík Airport (RKV), 101  
Reykjavik, Iceland 511 6630

Nautholsvik Beach is no Waikiki, but it's definitely fun for a quick dip or afternoon swim. Geothermal water is pumped into two hot pots (large Jacuzzis) and into the bay, which keeps the lagoon's temperature around 68 degrees. A seawall surrounding the lagoon helps to keep the cold sea water out of the swimming area. The complex at Nautholsvik Beach has changing rooms as well as café for beverages and snacks. Admission to the beach and facilities is free; though, a small fee is charged for lockers. The beach is open from May 15 to Aug. 31.

## WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

The beach is free to visit.





# Laugardalslaug Thermal Pool



## Offbeat Secret

Sundlaugarveg 104, Reykjavik, Iceland 411 5100

Laugardalslaug is a great example of why swimming is a national sport in Iceland despite the country's proximity to the Arctic Circle. Considered the city's largest geothermal pool, the complex houses a 50-meter outdoor pool, two water slides, numerous "hot pots" (Jacuzzis), an outdoor children's pool, a thermal steam bath, indoor gym and a mini-golf course (weather permitting). An all-day pass to Laugardalslaug costs approximately \$2.50 (the locker rental is included in the price). And like the U.S. Postal Service, Laugardalslaug operates in all weather conditions.

### RATING



Make Your Trip

### CATEGORY

Swimming

### NEED TO KNOW

Only Locals

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

It's cheap, relaxing and fun.

# 12 Tónar



## RATING



Make Your Trip

## CATEGORY

Music Store

Live Performances

Trendy Shop

## NEED TO KNOW

Offbeat



## Offbeat Secret

Skólavörðustígur, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland 511 5656

This small record shop packs a mighty punch with its collection of CDs and vinyl from international artists as well as local musicians. In addition to the store and listening room, which features an ever-changing selection of albums, 12 Tónar also hosts live in-shop performances on Friday afternoons.

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Eclectic selections from local artists.



# Kolaportid Flea Market



## Offbeat Secret

Tryggvagötu 19 , Old Harbour, Grófin,  
Reykjavik, Iceland 354 562 5030

Just a few minutes from the city center in the old harbor area, Kolaportid Flea Market is the place to come for house hold treasures (or junk, depending on how you look at it) such as books, antiques, DVDs, woolen goods, toys and vintage clothing. The indoor market, which is open every weekend, is also home to Icelandic delicacies, like fermented shark and dried fish, as well as fresh licorice and home grown vegetables. Most vendors only accept cash, so be sure to have some money on hand before arriving.

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Finding unusual gifts and people watching.

### RATING



Good Detour

### CATEGORY

Secret Market

### NEED TO KNOW

People Watching

Offbeat

BÍÓ ★ PARAD

# Bio Paradis

## RATING



Good Detour

## CATEGORY

Cinema

## NEED TO KNOW

Offbeat



## Offbeat Secret

Hverfisgata 52-60, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland 412 7711

This independent cinema, which opened in 2010, is the best place to get your movie fix while visiting Reykjavik. The four-screen theater, features new releases, indie movies and Icelandic films (often with English subtitles) as well as special showcases for acclaimed directors, such as Brian De Palma, that bring their films back to the big screen.

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Fantastic selection of films.





Glo



## Eat

Laugavegur 20b, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland 553 1111

Gló is one of Reykjavik's best vegetarian restaurants. Because the restaurant uses only fresh ingredients, the menu is updated daily and features four dishes of the day: raw food, a meat or vegetarian dish and the soup of the day, along with tea, coffee and desserts.

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Fantastic vegetarian dishes.

### RATING



Make Your Trip

### CATEGORY

Farm fresh Organic

Atmosphere

### NEED TO KNOW

Restaurant

Vegetarian



# Mokka Kaffi

## RATING



Make Your Trip

## CATEGORY

Atmosphere

Classic

No WiFi

## NEED TO KNOW

Cafe

Dessert

sandwiches



## Eat

Skolavoroustg 3a, Reykjavik, Iceland 552 1174

Mokka-Kaffi hasn't changed much since opening in 1958, and, in this case, that's a very good thing. Considered to be Reykjavik's oldest café, Mokka is often credited with kick starting the city's caffeine culture. While the café features desserts and sandwiches, Mokka's real claim to fame is its homemade waffles, which are served with jam and fresh whipped cream. The café also doubles as an art gallery for Icelandic artists with exhibitions changing every few weeks, so be sure to check out the latest works before heading back out into the street.

## WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

The sweet waffles and coffee.

Íslendingar borða SS pylsur

# Baejarins Beztu Pylsur



## Eat

Tryggvagotu 1, Reykjavik 101, Iceland +354 864 7839

Bill Clinton, James Hetfield of Metallica and Anthony Bourdain all love Iceland's most famous wiener, and for good reason, it is delicious. But it's just not foreign celebrities who love these hot dogs, locals are huge fans too, often referring to them as the Icelandic national food. The hot dog will set you back about \$3 and it can be topped with ketchup, fried onion, sweet mustard, raw onion and/or remoulade, a mayonnaise-based sauce with sweet relish.

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

The hot dogs are cheap and oh so delicious.

### RATING



Make Your Trip

### CATEGORY

Classic

Buzzing

Quick

### NEED TO KNOW

Street

Food



# Forrettabarinn (Starters Restaurant & Bar)

## RATING



Make Your Trip

## CATEGORY

Wine Trendy

Locally Sourced

## NEED TO KNOW

Tapas Restaurant



### Eat

41, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland 517 1800

Forrettabarinn maybe one of the new kids in Reykjavik's culinary scene, but it's quickly made a name for itself among locals and critics alike. Located near the harbor, the restaurant features creative small plates in a low key atmosphere that features an open kitchen. In addition to its locally sourced smoked salmon, Forettabarinn also features vegetarian, chicken, beef, pork and seafood dishes designed to tantalize your senses.

## WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Delicious tapas-style dining.





# 3 Frakkar



**Eat**

Baldursgata, 14, Reykjavik, Iceland 552 3939

With its nice selection of seafood and sea birds, plus a sweet nautical decor, 3 Frakkar is the spot to come for authentic Icelandic cuisine. While its not the cheapest spot in Reykjavik—main courses average about \$30—the portions are a good size and are usually complemented with vegetables, potatoes and rich sauces.

## WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Tasty authentic Icelandic cuisine.

## RATING



Good Detour

## CATEGORY

Atmosphere

Fine Service

Classic

## NEED TO KNOW

Restaurant



# Kaldi Bar

## RATING



Make Your Trip

## CATEGORY

Craft Beer

Chill

Happy hour

Relaxed & Casual

## NEED TO KNOW

Bar



## Drink

Klapparstígur, 101 Reykjavík, Iceland 858 0104

Craft beer and brewing is still a relatively new scene in Iceland. However, what is being poured right now is downright delicious, and Kaldi is no exception. To get a taste of the beer for yourself, head to Kaldi Bar, which features a selection of the breweries finest on tap. A great staff, cozy atmosphere and good happy hour (2 for 1 drinks) make this local spot a must-visit for any beer lover.

## WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Good atmosphere and local beer



# Kaffibarinn



## Drink

Reykjavik, Iceland 551 1588

Kaffibarinn has been a main stay in Reykjavik vibrant club scene the 1980s. Though, this city hotspot feels more like a house party than a high energy nightclub, featuring a nightly showcase of DJs and local musicians, and more reasonably priced drinks than other clubs.

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Great atmosphere.

### RATING



Make Your Trip

### CATEGORY

Live Music

### NEED TO KNOW

Club Bar

Late night



# Saemundur i Sparifotunum

## RATING



Make Your Trip

## CATEGORY

Locally Sourced

Farm fresh

Bar food

## NEED TO KNOW

Gastro Pub



## Eat

Skulugata 28 | T561 6060, Reykjavik, Iceland

This mellow gastro pub inside the KEX Hostel is a favorite among locals and the backpackers who call this place home during their stay in the city, and not just for the local beer on tap. Saemundur i Sparifotunum prides itself on its use of local ingredients (the menu is seasonal)—and Icelandic staples, like succulent lamb, fresh fish and dairy products, as well as cheeseburgers made with free-range Icelandic beef and Isbui cheese.

## WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Fresh local ingredients and flavors.



# 101 Hotel, Reykjavik



## Sleep

Hverfisgata 10, 101 Reykjavik – Iceland +354  
580-0101

For those looking to indulge in the capital city, look no further than Reykjavik 101—a 38-room boutique hotel near the National Opera House and the city's main shopping corridor. The hotel's exterior maybe stark, but inside the rooms are bright and modern, featuring heated oak floors, large beds and open-plan bathrooms.

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Comfort meets style.

### RATING



Make Your Trip

### CATEGORY

Modern Spa

Exercise

### NEED TO KNOW

Boutique hotel

Luxury



# Kex Hostel Reykjavik

## RATING



Make Your Trip

## CATEGORY

Free WiFi City life

Atmosphere

## NEED TO KNOW

Boutique Hostel



## Sleep

Skúlagata 28, Reykjavik, Iceland 561 6060

A gastro pub, lounge area, heated outdoor patio, small fitness center and free Wi-Fi are really just the beginning of what makes KEX Hostel so desirable. Housed in an old biscuit factory in the heart of Reykjavik, KEX, which opened in 2011, is in the heart of what makes Reykjavik awesome—bars, clubs, cafes and late night dining spots are all at your finger tips. Dorm room start at \$24/ night.

## WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Close to everything.





# Reykjavik Campground



## Sleep

Sundlaugarvegur 32 105 Reykjavik 568-6944

Traveling in Iceland isn't cheap, but the Reykjavik Campsite offers tenting on a grassy lawn for about \$13 a person in Reykjavik. In a city, and country for that matter, where a cup of coffee averages \$3, this by far the cheapest way to see to Iceland's vibrant boutique laden capital city on a budget. Located 15 minutes-walking time- from the downtown area, the campground has clean showers, bathrooms and an abundance of hot water. In addition, the campground offers a kitchen area with hot plates, numerous picnic tables and WiFi for an extra charge.

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

It's the cheapest way to see Reykjavik.

### RATING



Make Your Trip

### CATEGORY

Safe

Rustic

Kids

### NEED TO KNOW

Camping

# ITINERARY




## DAY 1



### Getting to Know Reykjavik

The first 24 hours is all about discovering what makes the capital city tick. Fuel up on coffee and sweet homemade waffles for a day that will take up to city's highest point and into its geo-thermal sea.



# MORNING

## Mokka Kaffi

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**Eat**

Skolavoroustg 3a,  
Reykjavik, Iceland

552 1174

## Hallgrímskirkja Church



### See and Do

Kolavörustigur,  
Reykjavík, 101,  
Iceland

+354 510 1000





# AFTERNOON

## Free walk of Reykjavik Tour

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### See and Do

Lækjargata, 101  
Reykjavik, Iceland  
holli@gmail.com

## Settlement Exhibition

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### See and Do

Adalstraeti 16,  
Reykjavik, Iceland  
354 411 6370

# AFTERNOON

## Kolaportid Flea Market



### Offbeat Secret

Tryggvagötu 19 ,  
Old Harbour, Grófin,  
Reykjavik, Iceland

354 562 5030



## Glo



### Eat

Laugavegur 20b,  
101 Reykjavik,  
Iceland

553 1111





# AFTERNOON

## Nautholsvik Geothermal Beach

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### See and Do

Nauthólsvegur,  
Reykjavík Airport  
(RKV), 101  
Reykjavík, Iceland

511 6630

# EVENING

## Kaldi Bar



### Drink

Klapparstigur, 101  
Reykjavik, Iceland  
858 0104



## 3 Frakkar



### Eat

Baldursgata, 14,  
Reykjavik, Iceland  
552 3939




# ITINERARY



## DAY 2

### Live Like A Local

The next 24 hours are all about doing what the locals do. From relaxing in the thermal pools to record shop perusing, you'll discover Icelandic street food and dance the night away in one of its most famous bars.





# MORNING

## The National Museum of Iceland

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### See and Do

Suðurgata 41, 101  
Reykjavik, Iceland

+354 530 2200

## Settlement Exhibition

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### See and Do

Adalstraeti 16,  
Reykjavik, Iceland

354 411 6370

# AFTERNOON

12 Tónar



## Offbeat Secret

Skólavörðustígur,  
101 Reykjavík,  
Iceland  
511 5656



## Bæjarins Beztu Pylsur



## Eat

Tryggvagotu 1,  
Reykjavík 101,  
Iceland  
+354 864 7839



# AFTERNOON

## Laugardaslaug Thermal Pool

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**Offbeat  
Secret**

Sundlaugarveg 104,  
Reykjavik, Iceland  
411 5100

## Imagine Peace Tower

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**See and Do**

Skarfagarðar, 104  
Reykjavik, Iceland



# EVENING

## Forrettabarinn (Starters Restaurant & Bar)



Eat

41, 101 Reykjavik,  
Iceland  
517 1800



## Kaffibarinn



Drink

Reykjavik, Iceland  
551 1588



# BEFORE YOU GO

## I. WHAT TO TAKE

*Because the weather can be unpredictable, make sure you pack something warm as well as waterproof. Sun glasses, sun lotion and a bathing suit are also key items to bring with you on your trip to Reykjavik.*

## II. GETTING AROUND

*Reykjavik is a very walkable city, so you won't need a rental car, unless you want to travel outside of the capital city. Public buses and taxis are also available in the city. Flybus operates a daily shuttle that connects Keflavík International Airport ( KEF ) to Reykjavik (45 minutes away). The price is 2.200 ISK (approx: 17 \$, 12 £, 13 €) for a one way ticket, which can be bought at automated machines (Credit Cards accepted) in the airport.*

## III. MONEY AND TIPPING

*Icelandic krona (ISK) is the currency on the island. Foreign currency is accepted at the airport and some shops in Reykjavik. Money can be exchanged at the airport, and ATMs can be found around the city. While Visa and Mastercard are accepted in Reykjavik, if you plan to travel outside of the city, have cash on hand. Tipping is not necessary in Iceland, since the service charge is already added to the bill.*

## **IV. SAFETY AND SECURITY**

*Iceland has one of the lowest crime rates in the world. With that said, it's still important to use common sense, just like you would at home. Don't leave valuable out, always lock your car, don't flash your money and watch your belongings in crowded areas.*

## **V. USEFUL PHONE NUMBER, WEBSITES AND LOCAL APPS**

*The 24-hour toll-free emergency line for police, fire and ambulance is 112. The official Reykjavik website is [www.visitreykjavik.is](http://www.visitreykjavik.is). If you want information about nightlife in the city, check out [www.grapevine.is](http://www.grapevine.is). And for travel information about Iceland, visit [www.icelandnaturally.com](http://www.icelandnaturally.com).*

## **VI. Local Notes**

*Iceland is 5 hours ahead of New York City and doesn't observe Daylight Saving Time. Smoking is prohibited in bars, clubs, restaurant and cafes in Iceland. You must have 3 months valid on your passport to visit the island; however, no visa is needed for visits under 90 days. Alcohol is expensive in Reykjavik, so if you plan to drink, then stock up on your booze at the duty free shop before leaving the airport, which can save you a significant amount of money.*



[www.buggl.com](http://www.buggl.com)