

what's on

IN REYKJAVÍK

september 2007

- How to spend a day in Reykjavík
- Wining & dining
- The Reykjavík International Literature Festival
- Practical Information
- Map of Reykjavík
- Reykjavík International Film Festival
- Glacier Adventure
- Event calendar
- Culture & art



heimur

REYKJAVÍK'S LEADING GUIDE TO ENTERTAINMENT, EATING OUT, MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES



8 September–4 November

Eggert Pétursson

Kjarvalsstaðir



31 August–21 October

The Icelandic Love Corporation

Gjörningaklúbburinn

Hafnarhús



Treasure chest

Reykjavík
871 ±2
Landnámssýningin
The Settlement
Exhibition



Experience Viking-Age Reykjavík at the new Settlement Exhibition. The focus of the exhibition is an excavated longhouse site which dates from the 10th century AD. It includes relics of human habitation from about 871, the oldest such site found in Iceland.

Multimedia techniques bring Reykjavík's past to life, providing visitors with insights into how people lived in the Viking Age, and what the Reykjavík environment looked like to the first settlers.

The exhibition and museum shop are open daily 10–17

Aðalstræti 16
101 Reykjavík / Iceland
Phone +(354) 411 6370
www.reykjavikmuseum.is



The Settlement Exhibition
Reykjavík 871 ±2 and Árbæjarsafn
are parts of Reykjavík City Museum



Open daily 10–17.
Free entrance on Thursdays.

One admission ticket is valid for three days in Hafnarhús, Kjarvalsstaðir and Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum.

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what's on in REYKJAVÍK

www.whatson.is

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Dear Visitor

Welcome to Iceland and its capital city. Reykjavík has been called Europe's coolest capital due to the famed and energetic nightlife. This small cosmopolitan city is just as much part of the Icelandic experience as the midnight sun or the magical landscapes forged by ice and fire. But there is more to Reykjavík than pubs and clubs, nature is also to be found within the city itself; whether one is in the mood for a spot of midnight golf, horse trekking, whale watching or salmon fishing, there is no need to travel long distances as all these choices and many more are within one's reach. Another must for all visitors is dining out on specialities including delicious seafood, ocean fresh from the morning's catch and highland lamb - purely natural food served at the numerous high quality restaurants in the city. Enjoy your stay in Reykjavík.

Ingvar Kristjánsson, editor



Volume 24 • Issue 8 • Published by HEIMUR HF. • Borgartún 23, 105 Reykjavík. Tel.: +354 512 7575, fax +354 561 8646
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Editor: Ingvar Kristjánsson, ingvar@heimur.is, tel.: 660 6712 • Layout: Sjonni, sjonni@heimur.is / erlingur@heimur / ARGH! ehf.
Photos: Páll Stefánsson, Rafn Hafnfjörð, Páll Kjartansson, Áslaug Snorradóttir, Jón Baldur Hliðberg, Guðmundur Ingólfsson & other sources • Printing house: Ásprent-Still ehf. Akureyri.

WHAT'S ON IN REYKJAVÍK is published eleven times a year covering in and around Reykjavík. Please note that while every effort has been made to ensure the information presented is accurate, should prices, times, dates or other information change or be found inaccurate the publisher accepts no liability whatsoever.
Opinions expressed in WHAT'S ON IN REYKJAVÍK are those of the individual authors.

Cover photo: Austurvöllur Park, Páll Kjartansson.

Lækjarbrekka ... well known for their Icelandic cuisine

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Glacier Adventure



TOUR FEATURES

Don't leave Iceland without experiencing a glacier. Being on top of a glacier is a thrilling experience, and through decades of experience we offer you the most eye-popping tours you will experience anywhere. Both geographical knowledge and expert guidance can be expected as a standard during this tour. This trip offers a broad range of glacier experiences for your enjoyment. Take a ride to the top of the world on a snowmobile and see the amazing Sólheimajökull from above the larger Mýrdalsjökull glacier and be pleasantly surprised by the magnificent views. All necessary equipment will be provided and is included. It is essential to present a valid driving license in order to drive a snowmobile. This tour is not recommended for children.



Booking phone: Tel: (+354) 562 1011 www.re.is e-mail: main@re.is

Locations visited

The South coast of Iceland and Mýrdalsjökull glacier (when weather conditions are favourable).

Duration: 8-10 hours

Operation

Feb - May and Sept 16 - Nov 15 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 09:00. From June 01 to Sept 15 on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 09:00.

Duration: 8-10 hours

Price

ISK 15500,-

Includes: Bus fare and guidance. 1 hour snowmobile ride (2 people pr. vehicle; single person pr. vehicle at extra cost). Lunch and refreshments not included. Pick-up at hotels and guesthouses 30 minutes before departure.

Welcome to Kaldárbotnsflugvöllur, only one of many airports in Iceland.

Expect delays.



Reykjavik: Smáralind, Kringlan, Bankastræti 5, Faxafen 12, Miðhraun 11 Garðabær. **Akureyri:** Glerárgata 32
Keflavík: Airport and retailers across Iceland.

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The Reykjavik International Film Festival will be held for the fourth time from September 27th to October 7th this autumn. In only four years, the festival has made a name for itself as one of the most exciting film events in Northern Europe. This is apparent from the rapidly growing numbers in attendance as well as the number of journalists, professionals and film enthusiasts visiting Iceland especially to take part in the film festival.

Founded in 2004 by a group of people concerned about the state of cinema culture in Reykjavik, RIFF sets out to both enrich the local culture as well as expanding the current international image of Reykjavik and make it into a city associated not only with progressive music, but progressive cinema as well. Iceland's cinematic nature and Reykjavik's enchanting aura combined with unique position in the middle of the Atlantic make RIFF the ideal venue for discovering new and exciting cinema.

However; nature, magic and location cannot replace a good, quality programme. RIFF's programme is extensive, but quality is never compromised. Emphasis is placed on new cinema, and we see RIFF as a starting point for films soon to take the festival circuit by storm. The competitive category is for example exclusive to directors' first or second features. But to appreciate the new, one has to recognize the old, and therefore retrospectives on important film auteurs are integral to the programme. A number of filmmakers will attend the screenings of their films and answer questions, giving the public a unique chance to get a peak behind the silver screen. Each year an honorary award is given to outstanding directors and a retrospective of their works is put on.

This year's Lifetime Achievement Award recipient is German actress Hannah Schygulla. While in Reykjavik Schygulla will give a musical performance based on her own musical biography. This is hardly an everyday occurrence - so expect a unique event. Schygulla performed in over 20 of Rainer Werner Fassbinder's films and has featured in nearly eighty films during her career. She's still very busy and was last seen in competition at Cannes last spring, where she starred in Fatih Akin's film *Edge of Heaven*, also screened at RIFF. Schygulla is the third recipient of RIFF's lifetime achievement award. Iranian film director Abbas Kiarostami accepted the award in 2005 and Russian director Aleksandr Sokurov in 2006.

For further information on the Festival programme and locations visit:
www.filmfest.is or call 411 7055 e-mail: info@filmfest.is

So many things to do, so little time.



» Have you enjoyed Iceland's surreal landscape? Been rafting? Raced a glacier on a snowmobile? Relaxed in a geothermal spa? Stayed up until the early hours at one of Reykjavik's nightclub?

Don't worry if you run out of time, because you can always come back, thanks to Iceland Express and our affordable air-fares to Iceland from several destinations across Europe.

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The Guardian Spirits of Iceland



If you are at this time carrying Icelandic coins in your pocket....reach for one, and take a close look. On one side of the coin the Guardian Spirits, drawn from Iceland's Cote of Arms, are depicted. Embodied in the Cote of Arms is an old story mentioned in Heimskringla (Lives of the Kings) by Snorri Sturluson (1179-1241) telling the tale of the four Guardian Spirits of Iceland.

According to Snorri, a magician was sent by King Harold Gormsson of Denmark to investigate the country prior to invasion. The magician turned himself into a whale and swam to Iceland. When he reached Iceland's shores he saw that all hills and mountains were covered various kinds of spirits and beings, both large and small.

The magician swam along the coast trying to find a spot where he could land without being seen. On the East coast he came into Vopnafjörður fjord, but quickly turned away when a huge dragon came crawling from the fjords end, accompanied by all kinds of reptiles, worms and lizards.

On the North coast the magician came into Eyjafjörður fjord. He had only been there a short while when he saw a gigantic Eagle flying towards him. Its wingspan was so great that the tip of each wing brushed the mountains on each side of the fjord. Again the whale form magician fled as fast as he could swim.

His next stop was Breiðafjörður fjord on the West coast. A huge number of supernatural beings led by an enormous roaring bull blowing smoke through its nostrils charged at him leaving him no options but to dive into the sea trying to escape.

Tired and bewildered as he was, the magician decided to make a final go at it rushing to the south coast. When just about to land he heard this terrible noise and through a cloud of dust a ferocious giant appeared carrying an iron staff in his hand. His head was higher than the highest mountains and with each footstep he made a thundering noise.

That was it for the poor magician and he turned back to his King ending further intentions of invasion. The Guardian spirits now represent each quarter of Iceland, Dragon for the East, Eagle for the North, Bull for the West and the rock Giant for the South. They are the four shield bearers in the Iceland's Cote of Arms.



The Reykjavík International Literature Festival 2007

The Reykjavík International Literature Festival takes place for the eighth time during the week of 9-15 September 2007. The festival's main purpose is to serve as a presentation of contemporary literature, with a particular focus this year on the ties binding fiction, society and biography. This year's festival also features a special seminar on translations of Scandinavian literature. Participation has already been confirmed by twenty authors from four different continents, ranging from renowned award-winning authors to promising young writers who have garnered attention at home and abroad.



The Reykjavík International Literature Festival has become a prominent feature on the literary scene, as witnessed by the growing interest exhibited by foreign publishers. It is a pleasing novelty to invite ten foreign translators additionally this year on an international seminar on translations. The events of the festival will mostly take place in two venues in Reykjavík. At noon and during the afternoon, the foreign authors will be available for discussions in the Nordic House. In the evening, Icelandic and foreign authors and poets will read from their works in Iðón Theatre. Furthermore, a special lecture and a seminar takes place in association with the University of Iceland. As before, the Festival is open to the public and admittance is free of charge.



Many of the world's best-known authors have attended the Reykjavík Literature Festival in the 20 years since its inception in 1985, amongst them Gunter Grass, Isabel Allende, Jose Saramago, Haruki Murakami, A. S. Byatt, Kurt Vonnegut, Fay Weldon, Paul Auster and many others. The following authors will participate this year: Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Jung Chang, Tracy Chevalier, J.M. Coetzee, Yasmine Crowther, Roddy Doyle, Kim Echlin, Edouard Glissant, Carla Guelfenbein, Jon Halliday, Kirsten Hammann, Carl Jóhan Jensen, Daniel Kehlmann, Jonas Hassen Khemiri, Tapio Koivukari, Nicola Lecca, Marina Lewycka, Robert Löhr, Hanne Orstavik, Claudio Pozzani, Morten Ramsland and Sasa Stanisic.



The festival is organized by volunteers. The board of the Reykjavík International Literature Festival are Halldór Guðmundsson, literary critic, (chairman), Sigurður G. Valgeirsson, literary critic, Örnólfur Thorsson, Icelandic specialist, Einar Kárason, author, Thor Vilhjálmsson, author, Sjón, author, Susanne Torpe, publisher and Pétur Már Ólafsson, publisher. As before, the festival is held in collaboration with the Nordic House in Reykjavík, under the supervision of Max Dager, director. The festival's project manager is Kristín Ingvarsdóttir.



For further information visit: www.bokmenntahatid.is or call 551 7030 e-mail bokmennt@gmail.com



event calendar

what // where // when

How to locate events Example: Reykjavik Art Museum – Hafnarhús (C-2) = → (Compare this to the map of Reykjavik at the back of What's On. Also check out listings in the Culture & Arts section pg. 28)

SEPTEMBER 2007



Reykjavik Art Museum - Kjarvalsstaðir (E-4)

● Reykjavik Art Museum, Kjarvalsstaðir: Eggert Pétursson.

Exhibitions

● Eggert Pétursson

The delicate yet rugged plants of Iceland's wilds cover the surface of Eggert Pétursson's paintings. The works, rendered with exceptional precision, invite the viewer to ponder the beauty dwelling in each square foot of countryside. The present exhibit spans Eggert Pétursson's career from start to present and includes some works never before seen by the public eye. The works are on loan from private collectors, companies and public museums. A lavish book on the painter Eggert Pétursson will accompany the exhibition. Curated by Ólöf K. Sigurðardóttir. On display until 04.11

Saturday 29 September 13:00

Artist's Talk in the Kjarvalsstaðir meeting room. Eggert Pétursson discusses his work and career with artist Ingólfur Arnarsson and curator Ólöf K. Sigurðardóttir.

Architecture at Eye Level

The North Gallery of Kjarvalsstaðir is dedicated to creative and participatory activities for guests of all ages. In this exhibition, works selected from the Icelandic environment convey important aspects of the art of architecture. Guests are invited to experience the exhibition in diverse ways, and may even choose to try their hands at its design and creation. The exhibition marks the publication of a new book intended to increase awareness of architec-



event calendar

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ture, a dual initiative of the Association of Icelandic Architects and the Curriculum Institute. Guja Dögg Hauksdóttir, head of the Reykjavik Art Museum's architecture department, is author of the book and curator of this exhibition. On display until 31.12

Helgi Gíslason

Sculptor Helgi Gíslason has shown his work in many group and one-artist exhibitions and has work in the collections of many museums and public institutions. His current exhibition in the west hall of Kjarvalsstaðir features new works of bas-relief. On display until 14.10

Sunday 16 September 15:00

Artist's Talk. Helgi Gíslason joins a guided tour of the exhibition.

● **Jóhannes Sveinsson Kjarval**

An exhibition highlighting key works by Kjarval from the Reykjavik Art Museum collection. On display until 31.12

Reykjavik Art Museum - Hafnarhús (C-2)

Exhibitions

● *The Icelandic Love Corporation*

The largest retrospective to date of the Corporation's work. The Icelandic Love Corporation is the only group of artists in Iceland devoted to the practice of performance art. Since their official launch in 1996, the Corporation's artistic endeavours have found a footing both at home and abroad. The Icelandic Love Corporation executes seemingly simple ideas with elegance, sophistication, and lucidity. A book detailing the history of the Icelandic Love Corporation will accompany the exhibition. The Corporation is comprised of Eirún Sigurðardóttir, Jóni Jónsdóttir, and Sigrún Hrólfssdóttir. Dóra Ísleifsdóttir was a Corporation member from 1996-2001. Curated by Yean Fee Quay. On display until 21.10

● Reykjavik Art Museum – Kjarvalsstaðir:

Jóhannes S. Kjarval.



● Reykjavik Art Museum – Hafnarhús: *The Icelandic Love Corporation.*

Thursday 6 September 17:00

Lecture and Discussion

The architectural firm THG collaborated with the Icelandic Love Corporation in the preparation of the present exhibition at Hafnarhús and worked with them to

design the installation in the museum's A-Gallery. Architect Amaldur Schram recounts the collaborative process. Members of the Icelandic Love Corporation will join a panel discussion.

Sunday 9 September 15:00

Artist's Talk

Jóni Jónsdóttir, Icelandic Love Corporation member joins a guided tour of the exhibition.

Saturday 22 September 13:00

Artist's Talk

Members of the Icelandic Love Corporation discuss their work and career.

Sunday 30 September 15:00

Curator's Talk

Yean Fee Quay guides a tour of the exhibition.

