

The Reykjavík Grapevine



Free copy

Volume 20

Issue 10 2023

Best before July 28

Where There's Smoke

Culture

Music

Travel

In This Issue

6

Where did all the trains go?

8

It's time to start investing

12-14

Welcome to the Fagradalsfjall Fires

16-17

Expanding opportunities for behind-the-camera talent

30

Raggi Kjartans' retrospective exhibition opens in Copenhagen

32

A case for sticking to regional fare at Gandhi

38

Sneak peek into an artist-run collective in Akureyri



On the Cover

For the third year in a row, the Reykjanes peninsula has come back to life, spewing forth red hot lava that will eventually cool into a young new landscape. Why has the area been so volcanically active of late? Can we expect eruptions to be the new normal on the peninsula for years to come?

PHOTOGRAPHY:
Joe Shutter



Editorial Long Live The Volcano

WORDS Catharine Fulton,
Editor in Chief

There's another eruption. Hurry. There's relief to be had, knowing that the constant earthquakes that preceded the July 10 eruption at Litli-Hrútur should be done (for now), but it's exhausting seeing nothing but lava in the news and in my social feeds.

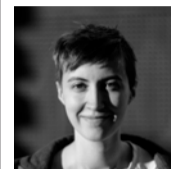
Yes. This volcanic island is doing volcanic stuff. It's exciting. But it also feels like the classic Icelandic business strategy of everyone jumping on the same bandwagon. I expect to see Laugavegur's prized puffin stores to start shilling stuffed birds that have been ever so lightly singed over the volcanic glow like a marshmallow.

Hey, I'm not above joining the crowd. Flip to Page 12 for this issue's feature on the new era of volcanic activity the Reykjanes peninsula has entered, and then jump back to Page 10 to read about "Lady Lava" Ragnhildur Ágústsdóttir and her Lava Show. Ragga has also been joining our photographer Art Bicnick at the site of the eruption for video diaries from the scene. Check those out on the Grapevine's YouTube channel.

But there's also culture in these pages, including accounts of two Icelanders exhibiting in Toronto and Copenhagen, an account from a DIY music festival and more, so maybe don't flip right to the volcano.

Oh, and if you visit the volcano IRL, for heaven's sake do not walk on the lava. ■

Contributors



CATHERINE
MAGNÚSDÓTTIR

Catherine studies culture and literature in Iceland and came to the Grapevine for the internship but ended up freelancing for the magazine. When she's not trying to reconnect with her Icelandic roots, she's usually watching video essays or attempting to finally come up with that one good story idea that she can actually finish writing.



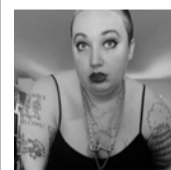
JÓHANNES BJARKI
BJARKASON

Jóhannes Bjarki is a Reykjavik local, straight out of Grafarvogur. Having been active as the frontman of the post-punk band Skoffin and in the post-dreifing art collective, Jóhannes is fascinated by the Icelandic music scene. Among his interests are politics, history and pop culture.



IRYNA ZUBENKO

Iryna is a Ukrainian journalist working at the cross-section of media and technology for the past five years. While still figuring out what to do in life, Iryna's love of travelling, unspoiled nature and Scandi design has brought her to Reykjavik. One day she'll write a non-fiction book.



REX BECKETT

Rex Beckett has been a fixture in the Reykjavik culture scene for over a decade as a longtime music/art writer and as former synthpunk diva Rex Pistols. They are currently working on a series delving into the influence of Garfield on queer millennials.



SHRUTHI BASAPPA

Shruthi Basappa traded the warmth of Indian summers for Arctic winds of Iceland. She's a food enthusiast masquerading as an architect at Sei Studio and loves obsessive attention to detail. When not leading our Best of Reykjavik food panel, Shruthi can be found trying to become a Michelin restaurant inspector.

A LOCAL FAVOURITE FOR OVER 20 YEARS



OUR KITCHEN IS OPEN FOR

LATE NIGHT DINING

until 23:00 on weekdays
and 24:00 on weekends



BOOK YOUR TABLE

TAPASBARINN | Vesturgata 3B | Tel: 551 2344 | tapas.is



KONTOR REYKJAVÍK

Farmers Market

— ICELAND —

OUR STORES IN REYKJAVÍK: FARMERS & FRIENDS



Laugavegur 37



Hólmastóð 2 / Grandi

WWW.FARMERSMARKET.IS

Iceland's
secret
to healthy
living

since 1938



The world leading fish oil
producer from Iceland

www.lysi.com



What The News!? It's Getting Hot In Here

The news making headlines in Reykjavík these days

WORDS The Reykjavík Grapevine
IMAGE Art Bicnick

There's no dancing around the biggest news in Iceland these days: a new eruption has started on the Reykjanes peninsula. Specifically, a 200 metre fissure opened up around 16:20 on July 10, spewing forth an obscene amount of lava. Like seriously, eruption, check yourself.

While the eruption of Litli-Hrútur started with a flow of an estimated 60 cubic metres of lava per second,

by July 11 the flow had slowed considerably. Still, the ongoing eruption is larger than the 2021 eruption in Geldingadalir or the 2022 eruption in Meradalir.

The Litli-Hrútur eruption is also harder to reach than the eruptions of the previous two years. Authorities are urging those wishing to visit the eruption to check the news, be aware of conditions and understand that you'll be hiking in rough terrain for at least 9 km in each direction – that's an 18-20 km round trip, people. If you're not accustomed to walking further than to your car, this might not be the activity for you, no matter how much you want to see an erupting volcano.

Those who do embark on the trek to the eruption site are reminded to pack water and food, dress appropriately and ensure you have a full charge on your phone. A gas mask is also advisable, as the eruption is emitting carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide, both of which can be fatal if exposed to for a prolonged amount of time. The gases are particularly dangerous if there is little wind, as it

gives them a chance to settle.

And for the love of god, do not walk on the lava. That shouldn't need to be said, but it seems some strong candidates for the Darwin Prize have been walking on the just hardened lava. Search and rescue has even announced they will not send help if you're stranded on the lava. You will die.

On that note, summer finally arrived in Reykjavík in early July and the city has absolutely come alive with people crowding outdoor patios, soaking up all the vitamin D they can before the weather inevitably takes a turn for the worse.

The capital area has been graced with clear blue skies, light wind and temperatures that reached 20° C on Monday. It's the perfect weather to play a round of "Local or Tourist?" Locals will be out in their summer gear – t-shirts, linen sun dresses, shorts – while tourists will be sporting PrimaLoft jackets and toques. It's an easy game to play, but it's still wildly entertaining. Sorry, that's *mildly* entertaining. ■



The Reykjavík Grapevine

PUBLISHED BY
Fröken ehf.
Aðalstræti 2, 101 Reykjavík
www.grapevine.is
grapevine@grapevine.is

Member of the Icelandic
Travel Industry Association
www.saf.is

PRINTED BY
Landsprent ehf.

PUBLISHER
Jón Trausti Sigurðarson
jontrausti@grapevine.is

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Catharine Fulton
editor@grapevine.is

PHOTO & MEDIA
EDITOR
Art Bicnick
art@grapevine.is

JOURNALISTS
Iryna Zubenko
Jóhannes Bjarkason

PODCAST &
LISTINGS EDITOR
Rex Beckett

CONTRIBUTORS
Árni Hjörvar
Andrew Joe Potter
Berta Pérez Solé
Catherine Magnúsdóttir
Francesca Stoppani
il mestiere del corvo
Mira Haldar
Rex Beckett
Shruthi Basappa
Valur Gunnarsson

FOUNDERS
Aldis Pálsdóttir
Hilmar Steinn Grétarsson
Hörður Kristbjörnsson
Jón Trausti Sigurðarson
Oddur Óskar Kjartansson
Valur Gunnarsson

PHOTOGRAPHY
Elisabet Davids
Houdini
Joana Fontinha
Paul Salveson
Pierre Le Hors
Poul Buchard
Torfi Þór Tryggvason

EDITORIAL
editor@grapevine.is

ADVERTISING
ads@grapevine.is

SALES DIRECTOR
Aðalsteinn Jörundsson
aadalsteinn@grapevine.is

STORE MANAGER
Helgi Þór Harðarson
helgi@grapevine.is

FOUNDERS
Aldis Pálsdóttir
Hilmar Steinn Grétarsson
Hörður Kristbjörnsson
Jón Trausti Sigurðarson
Oddur Óskar Kjartansson
Valur Gunnarsson

EDITORIAL
editor@grapevine.is

ADVERTISING
ads@grapevine.is

DISTRIBUTION &
SUBSCRIPTIONS
distribution@grapevine.is

PRESS RELEASES
events@grapevine.is

GENERAL
INQUIRIES
grapevine@grapevine.is

The Reykjavík Grapevine is
published every month by
Fröken Ltd.

Nothing in this magazine
may be reproduced in
whole or in part without
the written permission of
the publishers.

The Reykjavík Grapevine
is distributed in and

around Reykjavík and
at key locations along
Iceland's route 1.

It is also available at all
major tourist attractions
and information centres
around the country.

The Grapevine is an independent
publication. You may not agree with what
we print, but at least our
hot takes aren't paid for.

None of our editorial is
directed or influenced by
sponsors or advertisers,
and all opinions expressed
are the writer's own.



ONE OF THE FOOD WONDERS OF THE WORLD

ICELANDIC LAMB IS THE FIRST ICELANDIC FOOD PRODUCT TO BE PDO-MARKED

Icelandic lamb has acquired the PDO label, the highest level of geographical indication in Europe, placing it in the company of the world's best-known and most sought-after quality products.





Ask An Expert

What Happened To The Trains In Iceland?

We turned to Árbær Open Air Museum for answers

WORDS Catherine Magnúsdóttir
IMAGE Art Bicnick

Public transport certainly is...a thing in Iceland if the nice yellow buses are any indication – although most people seem to prefer getting stuck downtown in the comfort of their own car.

We even have another small airport in town for more long-distance domestic voyages. This has left many travelers and locals alike occasionally posing the question: why are there no trains in Iceland? Hold on to your cute little conductor hats now, because it turns out there were trains in Iceland about a hundred years ago! This begs the follow-up question: what happened to them? For an answer we turned to Sigurlaugur Ingólfsson, project manager at the Árbær Open Air Museum where one of the old locomotives is displayed.

“It’s quite unique that we have preserved the two locomotives ever to have been operated here,” Sigurlaugur says. “It was a period of about 15 years that we had an operational

railway in Reykjavík. The trains were brought here by a Danish company that was contracted to build the harbour, but there was so much inflation – which sounds familiar today – so Reykjavík bought the two locomotives and some other machinery, which hasn’t been similarly preserved. So, that’s how they ended up here and they were operated by the town as late as 1930.”

The Reykjavík harbour was built between 1913-1917 with the help of the locomotives Minör and Pionér, the former is still on display at the harbour and the latter stationed at Árbæjarsafn.

“They ran on two different sets of tracks and they were mostly hauling rock for the harbour construction,” Sigurlaugur explains. “They were used later for the expansion of the harbour but also for freight movement after the first phase of the harbour was constructed. Harbour construction was a huge undertaking and if Reykjavík hadn’t built the harbour we would probably see Hafnarfjörður as the biggest city in Iceland today because they had such excellent harbour facilities. But the harbour in Reykjavík was poor, all the ships had to dock outside the bay and then move everything by boat to land. This, of course, hampered Reykjavík’s growth, so harbour reconstruction was the most important development in the city’s history and sealed its fate as a capital as a result.”

But if the locomotives had proven so vital, why were they not further pursued?

“There had been plans for further railway use,” Sigurlaugur says. “There were mainly foreign companies that suggested building railway lines in the late 19th century and it had some support among Icelanders. There was even a magazine called Eimreiðin, which means ‘the locomotive.’ It was a magazine about everything really, but the name was connected to the editor’s interest in railways. But all of these plans were vetoed by parliament or didn’t go through parliament, maybe because people didn’t trust these companies fully.”

Additionally, any plans after 1930 took a big hit from the Great Depression, so plans for a railway between Hafnarfjörður and Reykjavík or towards Selfoss were dead on arrival due to lack of funding.

Fun fact, despite the short stay of railways in Iceland, locals still managed to derail one of the trains once, according to Sigurlaugur. “Icelanders were always putting something on the tracks to see what would happen, mostly coins and things, but on one occasion they managed to derail one of the trains by putting a chain across. It was something Icelanders had never seen before and it turned full grown men into children.”

Maybe that’s why they’re hesitant to bring them back. ■



Do Shit

The Útle-ndingur’s Guide To Getting Shit Done

Make small talk with Icelanders

WORDS Catharine Fulton
IMAGE Art Bicnick

If your Icelander has taken the bait, you’ll likely be treated to an anecdote about the worst spring or summer they experienced in recent memory and how summer never came at all that year.

You’ve got them now.

Now it’s your turn to comment that you also remember that unfortunate summer and how its only saving grace was one solitary Thursday where the sun appeared and the temperature rose above 12° Celsius for twelve glorious hours.

“So, how do you like Iceland?” If ever you happen across an Icelander keen on engaging in small talk, that undoubtedly going to be a question posited at the first inkling of your foreign heritage. It’s been my experience that there are two things Icelanders love to talk about: the weather and Iceland.

Say you managed to score an outdoor table at Bódega for a cheeky afternoon beverage in the sun and you want to engage in pleasant conversation with the Icelander next to you. A sure fire entry into the conversation would be to comment on the beautiful weather. Once they nod or verbalise their agreement, you could follow it up with a comment on it being about time the weather turned after the miserable spring we had.

It’s at this point, after establishing a timeline of the number of summers you’ve lived here, that you’ll be asked how you like Iceland or how long you’ve been in Iceland. Answer, of course, but I’d also recommend turning the tables and asking them how they like Iceland. Where the conversation goes from there is anyone’s guess, but you may be done your drink by this point, so if the conversation is dwindling you can cut your losses and vacate your table (the next vitamin D deprived local will thank you for it) or grab another drink to see if the small talk can turn big.

Congratulations, you small talked with an Icelander. ■

THE #1 BEST THING TO DO IN THE WORLD
- by TimeOut Magazine

HVAMMSVÍK
NATURAL HOT SPRINGS
SINCE 1187

ONLY 45 MINUTES FROM REYKJAVÍK
HVAMMSVIK.COM

THE JOURNEY INTO THE HEART OF THE GLACIER

See glacier layers
Peer inside a crevasse
Walk on and into a glacier

Suitable for all ages
Open all year round
Less than 2 hours from Reykjavik



Go see for yourself



intotheglacier.is





Money Moves

Investing Made Simple

The how, when and why of making your first investment

WORDS Iryna Zubenko
IMAGE Art Bicnick

They say investing is the key to unlocking financial success, but for most ordinary people, terms like bonds, stocks and equities sound like little more than a list of buzzwords. Things like investing are rarely taught in schools. We sat down with Ellen Hine, an analyst at Stefnir Asset Management Company, to get some beginner-friendly investment tips.

GV: WHAT ARE SOME OF THE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO BEGINNERS?

When looking at investments, it can be good to look at risk versus potential return. People think, "I want to take more risk to get more reward." However, that's not how it works. When taking more risk, there's also more chance of losing money. For a

beginner, the first step to invest is to open up a custody account. You can do that with your bank. Then you can buy stocks or funds. My number one thing to do would be to start now.

Many people see the first steps as such an obstacle, but it has been made simple for everyone. It's very accessible. If you're starting your investment journey, I recommend investing in something other than individual stocks since that requires you to know much more about the sector, the company, the general stock market, the management team and so forth.

Time is your friend when it comes to investments.

Most people don't have time to read all the income statements in the balance sheets, trying to find out how the company will do in the future. That's the job of a portfolio manager. When you're beginning, mutual funds can be a great option because they offer a portfolio manager who is an expert. They can take the wheel – they're making decisions and you get exposure to many things in one investment.

Which type of mutual fund? That's

another question – and it brings us back to the risk versus the return. Fund management companies have three main mutual funds: equities, fixed-income and money market funds. That's in the order from higher to lower risk.

If you have some extra money, you could put it into something riskier or something you have an interest in. It can be fun to try. For instance, if you like Apple and are passionate about its products and vision, you could try to put a little money into it. But you have to accept that that money might not grow or you might lose some. The

words "fun" and "investments" don't often go together – you have to be careful.

GV: WHAT ARE SOME KEY FACTORS THAT BEGINNER INVESTORS SHOULD CONSIDER?

Before you start investing, it's good to ask yourself three questions. *When will I need the money again?* That's going to have a huge impact on your decision. If you're saving to buy a house in ten years, you could

do an equity fund, which is stock. Stock is riskier, but that's a long-term investment. Perhaps, you're saving up to build a new patio next summer, then it'd be better to go for a money market fund, which is historically a more steady type of fund. You have to think – when do I need the money? Can I tolerate a long-term investment with fluctuations? Or am I making a short-term investment? The second question is, *why do I want to invest?* Am I saving for a trip to Tenerife next year? Then I obviously would like to keep it in a less risky fund – I don't want those funds to fluctuate much.

The third question is: *can I handle fluctuations?* This is much more important than you think. If you're worrying about it a lot and thinking, "Oh, God, it decreased by 5% in value," it's probably not right for you to invest in equities. Maybe you're very risk-averse as a person. You must also consider that, as it'll translate into your investment strategies.

GV: WHAT ABOUT MISTAKES TO AVOID?

If you are a beginner and not very well equipped with information about the market or particular sectors, investing in a singular stock may not be the best idea. The second thing to avoid is just listening to advice from social media or getting all your

information from one source. Many people and entities have hidden agendas, so try to gather information from multiple sources. For example, YouTubers like Logan Paul are being criticised for potential crypto scams. Thousands of ordinary people watch Logan Paul, partake in these things and lose money.

Another mistake is waiting too long. Avoid waiting, just go for it. Don't look at it as an obstacle, look at it as an opportunity.

GV: IS THERE A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF MONEY YOU NEED TO START INVESTMENT?

No, there isn't. You could start with something as little as a 5,000 ISK monthly subscription in funds. Luckily, more young people are interested in investment opportunities. We've had many things happen that have sparked interest with the younger people in Iceland. For example, in 2021, we had a lot of IPOs, which sounds like something that will make investments and people like bankers would know about. But many young people were taking part in IPOs.

Time is your friend when it comes to investments. Let's say you started investing at 30 – you're going to wish you started at age 20. ■



SANDHOLT REYKJAVÍK

Come by our time-honoured artisan bakery for intensely delicious baked goods, a savory brunch or one of our homemade sodas or craft beers

Find us on Laugavegur 36,
every morning from 7:30 AM.

www.sandholt.is



Side Hustle Of The Issue

The Silly Clown

Myth busted: not all of them are creepy

WORDS Iryna Zubenko
IMAGE Houdini

It's not difficult to spot Bryndísa Jara Þorsteinsdóttir, known as Bryn Bryn, in town. Always dressed in a rainbow outfit, she is often the brightest thing on the block! While Bryndísa loves her day job, deep down, she's a clown. But how does she make money from it?

Bryndísa Jara Þorsteinsdóttir, 32, a live model

I'm a nude model at art schools. That's my nine to five, if you will. I'm modelling every day and going to these fantastic classes and just

posing – thinking and posing. I'm an artist at the core – my side hustle is clowning!

EVERYONE IS A CLOWN

I've always been a bit of a clown at heart. I think everyone is a clown. It's just about finding a way to access that part of you and allow yourself to be silly. I've always had that and I've always had a unique dress sense. I love supporting artists and colourful clothing.

During the COVID era, I started to wear more colours and be a little bit more out there with my wardrobe. It kind of just attracted this other world. I was, first and foremost, really inspired by a friend of mine. He is a clown for a freak show on the east coast of the United States. He lives in Iceland now and does Coney

Iceland. He gave me a few tips and tricks about how to do makeup. After that, I just started going wild. I was like, "I can do this every day! I can just go out as a clown and let that live through me." Then it just attracted Sirkus Íslands and a lot of side hustles. I applied for a few grants from the city to work in hospitals with children, do circus days, do things for MSS and a few Coney Iceland shows.

I dress very clowney typically, but as far as getting paid or making a living, I do it once or twice a month. I apply for a grant, see if it gets accepted and then I prepare.

SILLY GOOSE

My favourite thing is that I get to be silly. I get to be wacky, I get to play with kids, I get to be a character,

but also myself. People think I'm a clown, but actually, I'm just being the best version of me. I like being able to be unapologetically myself, be inspiring and have people laugh.

One of the best moments I've ever had clowning is watching grownups learn to play again. Sometimes we forget that we can have an imagination, we can play and be silly!

The hardest part is that I'm very shy and it's a big energy exchange. It can be tough to put yourself in the "I want to be happy" mindset. If I can't get there, I'll just embrace the sad part of me. I'll find a way to be maybe less energetic, less silly and more serious. That's also okay!

You can basically take any element that is creative into clowning. If you are an artist, you can face paint. If

you are into games, you can teach people games. Say you're good at reading, you can just read story-books to people. It's so simple if you allow yourself to be a character. Try putting on a nose and see how you feel!

MONETISING LAUGHS

I dumpster dive for food, make my own accessories, thrift and alter my clothing. Renting is hard in Reykjavík, so I don't undersell myself. I say, "this is what I need to make rent." Also, I'm not feverishly spending all the time! ■

Want to share how you're making ends meet? Email us at grapevine@grapevine.is with the subject line "Side Hustle." We'll happily keep your identity anonymous.

Powering the Future Energy Exhibition

An interactive exhibition for the whole family, located at Ljósafoss Power Station, just a 50 min drive from Reykjavík.

The Energy Exhibition is open every day from 10 AM – 5 PM. No admission fee.
landsvirkjun.com/energy-exhibition



Islanders

In The Heat Of The Moment

Ragga Ágústsdóttir turned her obsession into a family business

WORDS Iryna Zubenko
IMAGE Art Bicnick

We meet Ragnhildur Ágústsdóttir on a day when a swarm of earthquakes is shaking the Icelandic capital. Ragga, as her friends call her, eagerly awaits the reawakening of the giant that has been stirring in recent years on the Reykjanes peninsula. Her passion for volcanoes and lava is truly infectious.

Ragga wears many hats as a co-founder of Lava Show, an educational exhibition showcasing Iceland's volcanic history by recreating volcanic eruptions indoors. She's a devoted "lava ambassador," business consultant, a mom of three and an avid golfer — believe it or not, the Grapevine managed to steal her away for an interview right from the middle of a golfing tournament!

I really like golfing, spending time with the kids and hiking. Golf helps me disconnect and relax a little bit. I get relaxation from golfing that I don't get from many other things. This particular week, almost all of the golf clubs in Iceland have their

own major tournament. But the volcano started shaking again, and it's really disturbing my golf game!

VOLCANIC OBSESSION

My husband Júlíus and I witnessed the volcanic eruption in Fimmvörðuháls back in 2010. There was almost a 200-metre-high lava wall — incredible scenery with the contrast between the lava, the snow and the black, cooling off lava on the cliffs. It was just insane. Incredibly mesmerising! We started talking about how cool it could be to recreate that scenario safely and make it possible for everyone to see lava whenever they want. That's what we did. It sounds super simple, but it was very complex.

Our lives changed dramatically back in 2011 when our sons were diagnosed with autism. That made us think that we were not going to do anything crazy; we're just going to focus on the boys and help them as much as possible. So instead of continuing with the idea, we changed courses — I founded a charity organisation for autistic children and was very focused on that for the first few years.

In 2015, we came across a video on YouTube of two scientists from Syracuse University in the USA who were melting lava for science. They were doing it very irregularly — once every few weeks or months. At least they knew how to do it. While we had the idea, we were neither engineers nor geologists and didn't have the

know-how to melt lava. We contacted those scientists on a Thursday evening, saying, "we're a couple from Iceland and we have a business idea. We would love to meet and talk about it. When is your next lava pour?" They replied that it was the following Monday. We were crazy enough to buy flight tickets and just go.

We had some good sessions with them and ended up asking them if they wanted to be part of our idea. They were super excited! One of them is now a full-blown partner and a shareholder. The other one wanted to take a little less active role — he's on the advisory board.

THE LAVA KNOW-HOW

The scientists came in with the know-how, but it was our turn to get the business plan going. We participated in the Gulleggid Startup Competition and Startup Reykjavik startup accelerator and got a lot of attention.

Everybody thought the idea was great, but honestly, I don't think anybody believed that we would ever be able to pull it off. On the last day of Startup Reykjavik, we flew in one of the scientists and did a demo. He melted a little bit of lava and poured it over ice in front of everyone. It ended up on the front page of Fréttablaðið, the biggest newspaper in Iceland [at the time].

Many people told us to do a proof of concept since this has never been

done before. To run a business from it and have lava pours many times a day is a difficult process. We got a few small grants and decided to buy a furnace. A few weeks later, we were offered to be part of a new facility in Vík. That's why we opened in Vík. We had to completely renovate the house to work for our business — we needed a pretty advanced ventilation system since we're melting lava up to almost 1300° Celsius. When we pour it into the showroom, it's 1100° Celsius. So, it's very, very hot!

The first time we called the head of the fire department in Vík, he said, "I don't know if I will give you all the permissions. Just do what you need to do and then show me." We went through a lot of all kinds of security measures. In our show in Vík, we use lava from the 1918 Katla eruption. It has a very personal connection to our family story. The show tells the story of Júlíus' great-grandfather escaping that eruption.

LONG-DISTANCE FAMILY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

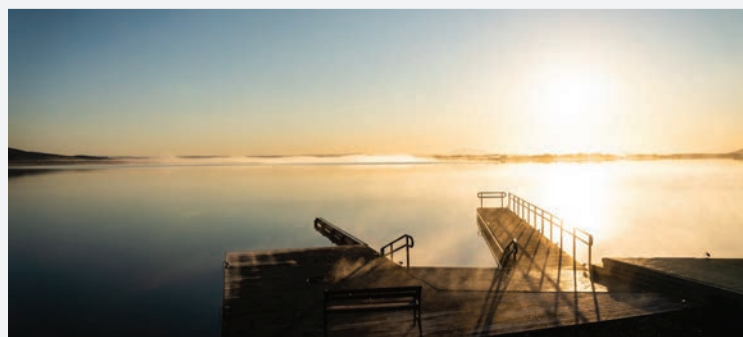
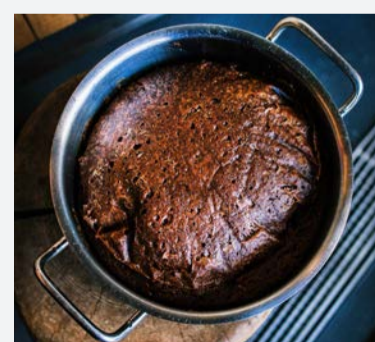
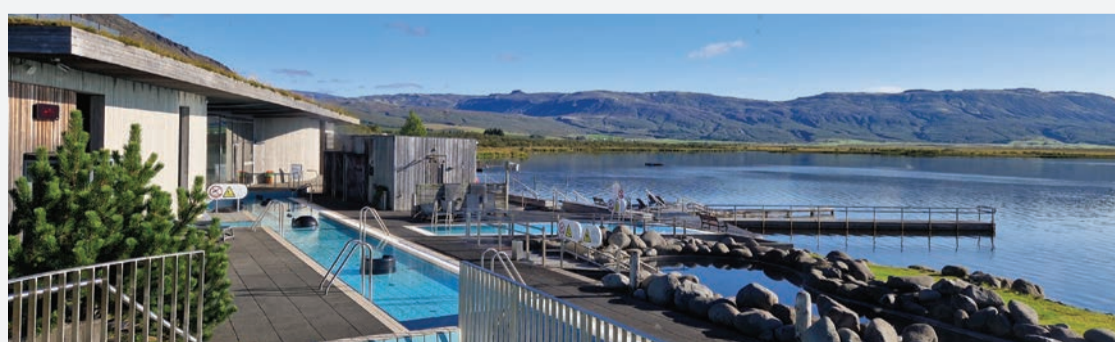
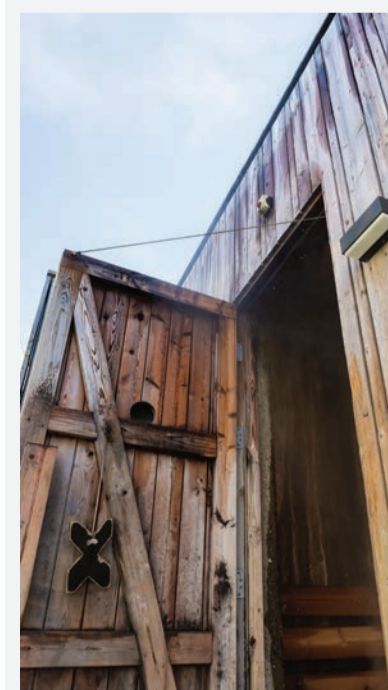
My husband resigned from his job and started working on this full-time at the beginning of January 2016. We opened in September 2018. We decided I would work elsewhere and he would lead Lava Show. I was supposed to support the family financially because he was not getting any salary. At first, I worked for Microsoft, then Controlant. It's a massive milestone that I was able to quit last March. Now I'm working full-time for Lava Show with my husband.

We opened in Vík, but we live in Reykjavík. We didn't move because our boys have special needs and they receive a lot of services in Reykjavík that they would not have been able to get in Vík. We had been doing long-distance for almost four years.

When we opened we put all our money into Lava Show. We were convinced that we had something amazing. But the thing is — we didn't have any money left to market the show. For the first few weeks and months, Júlíus was doing the show for five people. But those five people that did come were absolutely mesmerised. That's how we built the business just by word of mouth.

From the beginning, we've gotten amazing reviews and won some awards for innovation. Slowly but steadily, it started getting busier and busier. And then COVID hit. That prolonged the time that Júlíus had to be in Vík because we had to cut down on cost. He was doing almost all the shows, and I was in Reykjavík working and taking care of the kids. We thought it was a great idea to have a third child at the same time as we opened Lava Show. It was an insane time but also a lot of fun, especially when you start to see the results of all your hard work. We managed to get out of COVID and opened another exhibition in Reykjavík in November. This is our first summer and it's starting really well! ■

Watch Ragga as she further explains the wonders of lava on our YouTube channel @TheReykjavikGrapevine



Geothermal baths • Natural steam baths • Geothermal Bakery

LAUGARVATN
fontana
Geothermal Baths

fontana.is

fontana@fontana.is

+354 486-1400

THE ONLY LIVE LAVA SHOW IN THE WORLD

BOOK NOW



LAVA SHOW

LAVASHOW.COM

REYKJAVÍK / Fiskislóð 73 / 101 Reykjavík VÍK / Víkurbraut 5 / 870 Vík





Feature

Where There's Smoke

The Reykjanes peninsula's period of volcanic activity continues

WORDS Catharine Fulton
IMAGES Art Bicnick

There's something melancholic about approaching for landing at Keflavík International Airport. Perhaps that's the pessimistic reading. The glass half empty individual sees a seemingly endless expanse of nothingness out the aeroplane window, where their more optimistic counterpart might marvel at a land like no other. Moonlike. Otherworldly.

No matter the initial reading, a first time visitor or returning inhabitant has ample time to consider their surroundings, traversing the length of Reykjanesbraut toward Reykjavík, with the rugged coastline a constant to the north and an expanse of lava fields stretching into the slopes of dwarfed mountains in the distance.

To be sure, the pessimist's reading is the less informed. What appears to be nothing is actually everything. Young land, the remnants of mighty eruptions hundreds of years ago that split the Earth in twain and then

reshaped it by spewing forth molten rock to mend its wounds. Making the mental connection between the expansive fields of cooled lava, now grown over by mosses and lichens, and the fountains of lava and curtains of fire that once exploded out of the Earth's crust to create them hundreds of years ago is exciting. A meditation on the very ground beneath us that rarely warrants second thought.

Even more exciting is the realisation that the route from Keflavík airport to Reykjavík traverses four of the Reykjanes peninsula's volcanic systems – one of which, Fagradalsfjall, has sprung back to life in recent years, rejuvenating and reshaping the land once again.

FAGRADALSFJALL AWAKENS

The modern volcanic history of the Reykjanes peninsula began in December 2019, when earthquakes became more and more common, centred in the area around Fagradalsfjall, a tuya volcano that, at that time, had laid dormant for over 6,000 years.

As the COVID-19 pandemic ground the world to a halt in 2020 and emptied Iceland of tourists, the quakes continued sporadically, registering like brief jolts to those in the capital region, but rolling on as stronger rumbles for residents of Grindavík, a town of 3,300 people located along the southern coast of the Reykjanes peninsula.

By the end of February, 2021, the ongoing seismic activity was increasing in frequency. The three weeks that followed would see the area rocked by 40,000 earthquakes measuring up to a magnitude of 5.7. Scientists predicted the increased activity was the result of a dyke intrusion, allowing magma to rise and collect underground. Surely enough, on March 19, 2021, the earthquakes

travel-friendly, but a tourism magnet, drawing visitors back to pandemic-era Iceland like moths to a flame. It attracted Icelanders, too, with a quarter of the population making the trek to the eruption site in the first two months of the eruption.

By the time the eruption ended, on September 28, 2021, it had produced 151 million m³ of lava, creat-

What's happening on the Reykjanes peninsula is what is normal for the volcanic and tectonic activity on the peninsula. It is following basically the same general pattern that it has actively done in the past.

ceased and an eruption began in the Fagradalsfjall volcanic system. Lava spewed into the air in great fountains, pooling in Geldinadalir valley, first from a single fissure, but soon from six distinct cracks in the Earth. The glow from the volcano lit up the night sky, casting its sinister orange light onto the underside of the cloud cover.

Unlike the infamous eruption of Eyjafjallajökull in April 2010, which sent thick clouds of volcanic ash high into the atmosphere, resulting in the grounding of planes throughout Europe, the 2021 eruption of Geldingadalsgos proved not only

ing a new lava field measuring 4.8 km².

Less than a year after Geldingadalsgos petered out, a familiar rumbling began to shake the peninsula once again. Mercifully, the seismic activity this time was brief, lasting from July 30 to August 3, 2022 – though 10,000 earthquakes struck in that timeframe. They were heralding in a new, 360 m long fissure in Meradalir to the northeast of the eruption that preceded it. The eruption, though equally spectacular for visitors, was short-lived, ending Aug. 21.

WELCOME TO THE FAGRADALSFJALL FIRES

On July 10, 2023, after several days of seismic activity, lava breached the surface once again at Litli-Hrútur, just northeast of the previous two eruptions.

"What's happening on the Reykjanes peninsula is what is normal for the volcanic and tectonic activity on the peninsula," Þorvaldur Þórðarson, a professor in volcanology and petrology at the University of Iceland, told the Grapevine. "It is following basically the same general pattern that it has actively done in the past."

The most recent volcanic past for the peninsula are the Reykjanes Fires that took place from roughly the year 950 to 1240. During that period of activity, several volcanic fissures opened in the Reykjanes and the Eldvörp-Svartsengi volcanic systems, producing significant lava flow. In fact, roughly 50 km² of the peninsula was covered with a fresh layer of lava during that period of activity. Just east of that event, the Krýsuvík Fires took place in the 12th century, opening volcanic fissures in the Krýsuvík area of the Reykjanes peninsula, which remains a hot spot, luring visitors to its bubbling mud pits and other geothermal features.

The reason for the waxing and waning activity on the peninsula comes down to its geographic location. The Reykjanes peninsula straddles the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the meeting point where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates converge.



Þorvaldur Þórðarson

Or rather, where they're pulling away from each other at a rate of around two centimetres per year.

"They're moving at a slight angle to the main movement of the plates," Þorvaldur explained. "And this means that the southern part of Reykjanes peninsula is sliding towards the east and the northern part of it is sliding to the west. Because it's oblique, there's a slight opening related to that activity that actually creates space for magma to rise towards the surface. So when the plates move, you open up a pathway for the magma – which is stored deep down below the surface – to move towards the surface."

Just as the movement of tectonic plates happens in starts and stops, so too does the seismic and volcanic activity resulting from that movement. As Þorvaldur tells it, volcanic activity happens in episodes. "So we have these periods of no volcanic activity on the Reykjanes peninsula – and those happen to be about 800 to 1000 years long. The quiet periods are separated by a period which is very active where you have a lot of eruptions taking place. And those periods usually last for 300 to 400 years."

"We call these periods – the shorter periods of very frequent activity – 'volcanic fires' because they consist of a number of eruptions, not just one. That's what we are seeing right now. We're seeing the start of one of these shorter, very intense volcanically active periods, which we would call a fire. These are 'The

Fagradalsfjall Fires."

So this could be the start of hundreds of years of activity, a geological time frame that Þorvaldur likens to mere seconds in our concept of time.

UPDATING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF REYKJANES

As earthquakes began rocking the Reykjanes peninsula again in early July, 2023, the Icelandic Met Office's measurements of land inflation in the area sparked a conversation that could reframe how we've been thinking about the volcanic systems in the area.

From west to east, the volcanic systems along the Reykjanes peninsula and into the mainland of Iceland are Reykjanes, Eldvörp-Svartstengi, Fagradalsfjall, Krýsuvík, Brennisteinsfjöll and Hengill. The Reykjanes Fires hundreds of years ago saw chains of eruptions occurring in the Reykjanes and Eldvörp-Svartstengi systems. Now the eruptions are centred on the next system to the east, with each year seeing fissures opening farther east than the last.

While these systems had been considered separate, with individual magma storage zones deep in the Earth, recent Icelandic Met Office readings indicate that might not be the case.

In fact, GPS data is showing that the entirety of the Reykjanes peninsula has been inflating since April, 2023, not only the area associated with

the Fagradalsfjall volcanic system. This could indicate that the entire peninsula is actually a singular system, fed by a single magma storage chamber – one large volcano that is now in an eruptive cycle.

"If you have a really widespread rise of the land, then you must be injecting enough material to cause that rise," Þorvaldur said. "You push liquid into a void just like you'd push air into a balloon and the more air you put in the balloon, the more it swells. The same applies to a volcano. So if what the Met office informed us about is correct – that there is a really widespread inflation going across the peninsula – that means that the storage zone that has been filled is probably of the same mag-

to this one big storage zone somewhere deep in the Earth."

The idea of the Reykjanes peninsula being fed by one massive volcanic system isn't surprising to those who have been studying the chemical composition of lava from eruptions in the region centuries ago. "If you look at the chemical composition of the magma that has erupted at different points on the Reykjanes peninsula," Þorvaldur explained, "they're all more or less the same and they're all related. It would be easy to interpret the results of the geochemistry that all of that magma came from a single source."

To paint the picture more clearly, Þorvaldur explains that the volca-

dedicated drainage system, all the houses are actually connected by the same municipal sewage system... but in reverse, with the sewage coming up rather than going down.

FEELING THE HEAT

While scientists like Þorvaldur are experiencing a scientific jackpot with the arrival of this new eruptive period, civil protection authorities and search and rescue teams are swamped, faced with the impossible task of wrangling hordes of lookie-loos determined to feel the heat of the lava on their faces.

"It's easy to tell everybody to go and see some beautiful eruption, but the tasks of Civil Protection are big because we know there are people of all kinds, all kinds," said Hjördís Guðmundsdóttir, communication manager for the Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management.

Hjördís has been busy since before the eruption began on July 10, first asking people to stay away from the area as an eruption was considered imminent and then communicating safety and closure information to Icelanders and tourists eager to see an eruption up close.

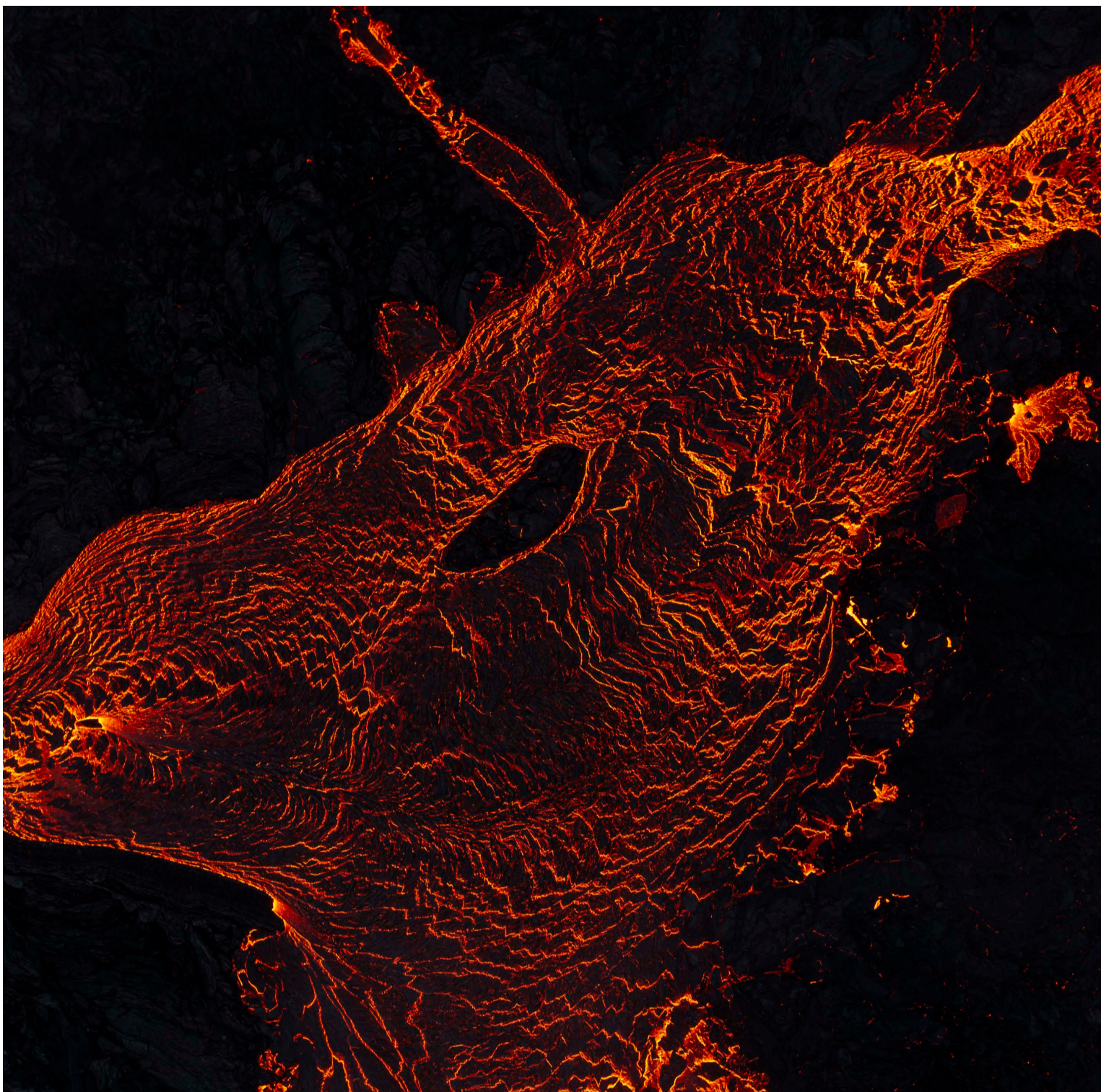
The danger occurs when people want to get as close as possible.

"Mostly people are following the rules and they know what to do and not to do," Hjördís said. "But you could say there are always black

Making the mental connection between the expansive fields of cooled lava, now grown over by mosses and lichens, and the fountains of lava and curtains of fire that once exploded out of the Earth's crust to create them hundreds of years ago is exciting.

nitude or the same scale as the peninsula. And if that is correct, then the whole magma system on the Reykjanes peninsula is connected

noes on the Reykjanes peninsula are essentially like a row of houses along a street. While it was once thought that each house had its own



unpredictable sneaker waves – despite ample signage warning them against it.

“Just because there’s not a fence doesn’t mean it’s safe,” Hjördís said. “That’s maybe the top 1, 2 and 3 on the list of advice for visitors to keep in mind.”

Hjördís points to problematic behaviour as one factor in the authorities’ decision to close the eruption site to visitors on July 13 until at least July 15. “That was one of the reasons the police decided to close the area,” she said, “as well as the pollution.”

“We know not everybody will listen, but most people do.”

The pollution from this eruption has been greater than that produced by the 2021 and 2022 eruptions. Not only is the volcano producing potentially lethal carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide, but the eruption is happening in an area that is lush with mosses and lichens, setting off wildfires.

“Usually when we have wildfires in Iceland, which is not very common, the area is locked,” Hjördís said. “Nobody is allowed to go into the area of a wildfire except for the people trying to contain it or put it out. So now we have wildfires and an eruption that people really want to see, so it’s even more of a challenge to lock down the area.”

IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL

What started in 2020 and 2021 as almost a novelty – earthquakes heralding the arrival of an eruption in an area at once remote and remarkably accessible from the capital region – has now become routine. With three eruptions in three years, it’s clear that we’re in the midst of a fresh period of “fires” in the youngest corner of Iceland. What happens next from a geologic or volcanic perspective is pure conjecture. Scientists can follow hot zones and gas emissions, but when an eruption begins seems to be less of a science than a best-guess scenario.

“My view of it is we’re going to have a series of eruptions in the vicinity of Fagradalsfjall for the next decade,” Þorvaldur said “Whether other systems kick in during that time frame, it’s hard to say – they can, there’s no specific rule that applies to the order of how these things erupt in reality.”

There’s no telling how long the current eruption at Litli-Hrútur will last and there’s no saying when or where the next one in the period of volcanic activity will begin. But two things are for sure: the Reykjanes peninsula is an exciting place and you should absolutely not walk on the lava. ■

sheep in a group like this. That’s maybe our biggest challenge.”

Hjördís goes on to explain that on the evening of July 12, more than 100 people were photographed walking on the newly hardened lava, with some walking right toward the lava vents.

“We see a lot of people just climbing up on the walls of the volcano, on the lava that was liquid and running a day or two ago,” exclaimed Jón Þór Víglundsson, a representative of the Icelandic Association for Search and Rescue, or Landsbjörg. “It is still 1000 degrees Celsius just a few centimetres below the black surface. We are really afraid that this is the eruption that someone will perish in. We didn’t have as many tourists during the last two eruptions. Now we do and it’s just ... some peo-

ple ...” Jón Þór hesitated, looking for the diplomatic way to complete his sentence. “I’ll just say it – it’s stupid. You just look at what they’re doing and you go, ‘what the fuck?’”

that search and rescue volunteers are simply not going to put their own lives in danger.

It is a numbers game for authorities

We see a lot of people just climbing up on the walls of the volcano, on the lava that was liquid and running a day or two ago.

Both Hjördís and Jón Þór underscored the fact that people who walk out on the newly hardened lava and find themselves in trouble will not be rescued. Jón Þór called it a kamikaze mission, while Hjördís explained

on the ground at the eruption and the Landsbjörg volunteers trying to keep people safe. While tourism in Iceland was rather low in 2021 and 2022, foreign visitors have now returned to pre-pandemic numbers. Some 2.1 million tourists are

expected to visit Iceland in 2023. However, the number of Landsbjörg volunteers and the number of police able to be dispatched to patrol the eruption site hasn’t increased in line with the potential number of people clambering to see the eruption.

SAME SONG, DIFFERNT VERSE

The behaviour being exhibited by some tourists visiting the eruption site isn’t new in Iceland. It’s only playing out in a new location. Dating back to the initial boom years of tourism in Iceland, the media was constantly reporting on tourists stepping over the short rope lining the walking path at Gullfoss, venturing out onto the slippery cliffsides. It still happens to this day that visitors to Reynisfjara beach venture too close to the water – the site of

EXPLORE UNSEEN ICELAND

ON THE ULTIMATE FLYING RIDE





OPEN EVERY DAY | flyovericeland.com

The Grapevine's Top Picks



PAVEMENT IN ICELAND
July 27, 28 & 29
Harpa Eldborg
17.799 - 22.199 ISK

Go back to those gold soundz with Pavement setting up camp in Harpa for three nights! It's a bit funny for the erstwhile 90s indie grunge hotties, who gained their massive following through college-radio stations and turned into one of the coolest bands of their decade, to be on a middle-aged legacy-band tour. But hey, we'll take it! With local legends Skakkamanage, Botnleðja and Mammút opening (one per night, in respective order), each show is guaranteed to be a uniquely Icelandic experience of Pavement's ongoing legacy. Don't go cutting your hair before the shows, darling. *RX*



DRUSLUGANGAN / SLUT WALK 2023
July 22, 14:00

Starting at Hallgrímskirkja

It's time once again to rise up, hit the streets and make some noise against sexual abuse, gendered violence and the systemic discrimination of victims! Happening for the 12th time, the Slut Walk is part of a global movement against victim blaming that arose from the 2007 #MeToo movement. A true solidarity movement, this year's edition is subtitled You Are Not Alone, highlighting how vital it is to have community. The protest march takes place on the afternoon of July 22, with warm-up events at Loft on July 19, and at Baka Baka on July 20. Check out Druslugangan's socials for details of the full programme and go make some noise. *RX*



Pitching In

Helping The Helpers

The Icelandic Association for Search and Rescue looks for broader support

WORDS Catharine Fulton
IMAGES Supplied by Landsbjörg

The people tasked with rescuing tourists and locals alike who find themselves in less than ideal situations are the volunteers of the Icelandic Association for Search and Rescue, or Landsbjörg.

Since its formal establishment in 1928, Landsbjörg's operations have been entirely dependent on donations from the public and the hard work of its volunteer crews. The association runs fundraising campaigns throughout the year, with its cash cow being the annual sale of fireworks in the lead up to Iceland's notoriously explosive New Year's festivities.

Now, with the number of tourists in the country outnumbering locals five to one, Landsbjörg is looking to visitors for support.

"Tourists visiting Iceland are a bigger proportion of those that need our assistance," Landsbjörg representative Jón Þór Víglundsson told the Grapevine. "Especially in the winter, which is understandable because driving in Iceland during the winter time is often difficult and you experience weather situations that you have never experienced before."

Iceland will welcome 2.1 million tourists in 2023. While some may seek out a city break, segmented by organised day tours on coaches with like-minded travellers, many will venture further afield, veering off the paved lanes of the Ring Road into the highlands, in search of a more intimate encounter with Iceland's famed – and oh so Instagrammable – nature.

While the vast majority of those visiting Iceland will return home with only fond memories, some will encounter trouble during their travels.

In early July, Landsbjörg launched the Root For Safety campaign, seeking \$30 or €30 donations from visitors to Iceland. For each donation, Landsbjörg will plant a tree in the benefactor's name in association with the Icelandic Forestry Association.

"When we are called out, we often experience a lot of gratitude from those that we are helping," Jón Þór said. "We never ask for payment from those in need – we wouldn't want to make people hesitate to call us – but we have experienced people asking how they can donate. And this campaign is an answer to that. It's basically just an initiative to give our foreign guests the opportunity to donate."

Visitors to Iceland won't have to get themselves in trouble in order to encounter a Landsbjörg volunteer and support their cause. The association has dropped an old rescue shelter and a couple trees right into the main arrivals and departures hall of Keflavík International Airport to draw attention to their campaign. It includes a screen with a QR code so you can make a donation before spending until it hurts at the duty

free.

"The rescue shelter in Keflavík airport is just a part of it," Jón Þór said of the scope of the summer fundraising effort. "We started a social media campaign. We've made hangers that some hotels are going to put up in their rooms, so people will see a Root For Safety sign on their door knob. Car rental companies are going to do the same."

It's a massive coup for Iceland to have a roster of 4,500 volunteers on call at any time to assist people in need – not to mention the 15,000 more individuals giving their time to upkeep Landsbjörg facilities, prepare food for search and rescue workers and more. So long as Landsbjörg is 90% funded by public donations, it's in everybody's best interest to bolster their efforts as much as we can.

"We are there 24/7," Jón Þór concludes. "We never ask why. We just ask, 'how can we help?'" ■

Support Landsbjörg's Root For Safety campaign at Landsbjorg.is/en/support/root-for-safety.

© sodalab_reykjavik

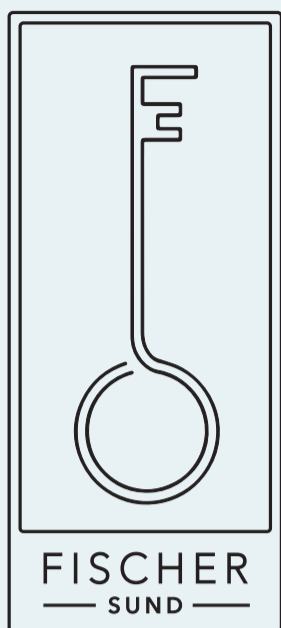
KOKOTARU

Sparkling Tea Drink

sodalab

a Universe of flavours!

Join us at RVK Street Food events all summer — European Street Food Awards / Reykjavik Pride / Reykjavik Culture Night



PERFUMERY & BOUTIQUE

Come for a scented experience at FISCHERSUND 3, 101 REYKJAVÍK

LISTEN TO OUR NEWEST SCENT →



Film Feature **To Hollywood And Beyond**

With Truenorth Talent, Tania Zarak Quintana is expanding opportunities for

WORDS Iryna Zubenko
IMAGE Art Bicnick

We meet Tania Zarak Quintana, VP of Development at Truenorth, just a few hours after she lands in Iceland, exhausted from her trip back from Mexico with her three children. Tania warmly welcomes us into her house to discuss the newly launched talent agency within Truenorth for behind-the-camera professionals. Naturally, the first thing I'm curious about is why would someone swap the tropical climate and food of Mexico for uninviting (at least, at the first sight) Iceland? Turns out, it's a long story.

would now consider a studio executive job," she explains, reflecting on how the industry has changed in the past two decades. "There were no streaming companies," she says. "The type of content people consumed was different. There's been a dramatic transformation in the environment." She has tried on multiple roles in the business, lived in Mexico City, New York and LA, and worked with companies such as Robert De Niro's TriBeCa Productions.

"Slowly, but surely, I climbed up the ladder, and in 2018, I was offered a job at Netflix," Tania shares. At Netflix, she oversaw international originals in Latin America and Spain. "My team was responsible for all original shows in Spanish," she explains.

The Covid-pandemic caught Tania and her family in New York. Since her children are half-Icelandic, relocating to Iceland was a straightforward option.

only stopped teaching when she started working at Truenorth, as it was too demanding to juggle both roles.

FROM HOLLYWOOD TO REYKJAVÍK

"Truenorth is one of the premier production servicing companies, not only in Northern Europe, but in the world," says Tania. In the 20 years since the company's inception, Truenorth has brought dozens of international films to Iceland, with the most recent milestone being the whole season of *True Detective*, which was entirely shot in multiple locations in Iceland.

"In 2018, Truenorth did the first Icelandic show for Netflix, *The Valhalla Murders*," says Tania, adding that since then, stimulating original production became one of the company's objectives. In 2022, Tania was brought in as the VP of Development to oversee original content.

I'm very excited about getting my talent jobs. I want to give them a shot on the global stage.

CLIMBING THE LADDER

Originally from Mexico, Tania started her career in the film industry as a producer. "Very quickly my career transformed into what you

Tania's first job in Iceland was at Kvikmyndaskóli Íslands, where she taught producing for directors. "It was mostly production based, but more in the way I learned it, which is creative producing, not just budgets and schedules," Tania explains. "I ended up teaching four classes throughout one year. It was a great experience." She admits that she

She admits that Iceland's size makes it very different from Hollywood – there's less competition and variety. "It's very tribal. Everyone has very deep connections to each other, in one way or the other, and this translates into their jobs," Tania says. She compares the Icelandic industry to her experience in Mexico



Iceland's creative powerhouse

and the States, stating, "In the USA, everyone is so eager and hungry to break into the industry that you have people doing internships and working for free. The Icelandic workers are tremendously protected, both by the government and the unions."

A lucrative governmental tax incentive, which reimburses foreign film productions 25% or 35% of the budget based on their expenditures, is one of the key factors that attract them to Iceland. Another factor, according to Tania, is the presence of extraordinary local technicians and creators. "There's a lot of talent in Iceland," she says. "Iceland is a country that is highly literate – 99% of the population reads and enjoys doing so, including children. There's a lot of potential for Icelandic stories and Icelandic creators."

BUILDING BRIDGES

Tania admits that it was during her Master's degree at Columbia University, where she had a few Icelandic classmates, that she was truly exposed to Icelandic films for the first time. Since then, she has developed a genuine appreciation for Icelandic cinema. "I think it's a matter of storytelling," she explains. "Raising children in Iceland, I'm impressed about how exposed they are to the arts, from a very early age, which is very stimulating for them. It's a very special place. I think this translates into the films, the music and the arts."

Since moving to Iceland, bridging the gap between Hollywood and Iceland has been a constant focus for Tania. She recalls a significant observation during a dinner with ex-

ecutives: "Someone from Hollywood called Leifur [Leifur B. Dagfinnsson, CEO & Founder of Truenorth]. This person asked Leifur for a name, possibly a director of photography. Leifur provided a few names, and that was it," Tania shares. "I realised Truenorth is such a point of reference in Iceland, we're so well

SUPPORTING THE TALENT

"I really believe in our talents. I think that everyone is doing amazing things," she says, reflecting on the recent accomplishments of producer Rúnar Ingi, whose short film *Fár* received a Special Mention at the Cannes Film Festival, and

There's a lot of potential for Icelandic stories and Icelandic creators.

connected and we have this massive infrastructure in Scandinavia. The very next day, I approached Leifur and said, 'There's no behind-the-camera representation in Iceland. With the relationships we have, we could formalise it.'" This conversation marked the inception of Truenorth Talent.

"Truenorth Talent is a boutique talent representation company," Tania explains. "We're starting with writers, directors and are slowly moving into music composers that can score both for film and television." Handpicking writers, directors and composers, Tania and her team focus on establishing long-term relationships with local creatives. The company's roster includes prominent writers, directors and producers, such as Arró, Elías K. Hansen, Erlendur Sveinsson, Helgi Jóhannsson, Hörður Sveinsson, Jörundur Ragnarsson, Katla Sólmes, Rúnar Ingi and Síggi Kjartan. "Everyone has been handpicked by us," Tania shares. "We're also going to support Briet in her acting career."

the promising young director Katla Sólmes. Tania is particularly passionate about providing more opportunities to women in film, "I really want to sign more women. I can't believe I only have one female writer-director," she says. In addition, Truenorth Talent is planning to collaborate more with local composers. "We are really looking forward to establishing long term relationships with people that can not only score our shows, but other shows," says Tania. "It's a win-win situation for everyone."

Truenorth has representation in Greenland, the Faroe Islands, Norway, Finland, Sweden and the Canary Islands, which means even more opportunities for the emerging behind-the-camera professionals. "I think the next step for Truenorth will be to find talent in one of these countries," she says.

"I'm very excited about getting my talent jobs. I want to give them a shot on the global stage," Tania beams with pride, concluding, "I see no reason why they would only be doing local stuff." ■

BOOK OUTLET!

WIDE SELECTION OF LOCAL BOOKS IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

UP TO 90% OFF

ICELAND'S LARGEST BOOKSTORE
Forlagið bookstore | Fiskislóð 39 | www.forlagid.is

Multi-award winning Tattoo & Piercing Shop

BLACK KROSS

Hamraborg 14a
200 Kópavogur
Iceland
+354 680 6662
blackkross@blackkross.is



International

Jónsi Brought A Volcano To Canada

The Sigur Rós frontman takes the art world inside Fagradalsfjall. Where visitors go next is up to them.

WORDS Andrew Joe Potter
IMAGES Paul Salvesson
& Pierre Le Hors

At first, you're overwhelmed by the near-total blackness. Stepping forward tentatively into the gallery hall, your exact destination is unclear — you've only been promised to be transported. To Iceland, sure — specifically, the site of an erupting volcano — but if you're lucky, maybe also that ineffable intersection of specificity and ethereality where memories live.

This is the latest creation by Jónsi, the multi-hyphenate artist best known for fronting the post-rock dream machine Sigur Rós. With Hrafninn (Obsidian), the installation currently on display at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto, Canada, the mind behind some of the

most beguiling music of the 21st century guides visitors on an immersive, nearly half-hour meditation on "how sensory memories can suggest a deeply intimate knowledge of a place or moment in time."

Obsidian is presented as the inside of a volcano as it gurgles to life, erupts, then hardens. Jónsi was stuck in Los Angeles amid the COVID-19 pandemic when Iceland's Fagradalsfjall volcano erupted for the first time in 815 years in March 2021. Though it has since erupted twice more — including the ongoing eruption that began July 10 — Jónsi sought to recreate the atmospheric experience for himself and others.

Here's what Obsidian's visitors experience: While sitting on a large circular platform in the middle of the room, a 25-minute, 33-second audio track plays across 195 speakers arranged in a circle around the perimeter. Timed to the audio are rumbling subwoofers encased within the central box. The campfire-like smell of fossilized amber wafts through the air from an unknown origin. A light-emitting "chandelier" is positioned directly above the box, representing the summit of the volcano.

At first, it glows dim white before flashing a violent orange during the climactic eruption sequence.

Like our planet's tectonic plates, the entire thing unfolds on a continuous loop; there is no clear marker of when one rotation ends and the next begins. It's the closest thing to an amusement park ride you'll likely discover in an art gallery.

The sounds of Obsidian will be familiar to fans of Sigur Rós or Jónsi's musical partnership with Alex Somers. The hallmarks of his sound,

whirling, 360-degree soundscape.

There's also a section clearly inspired by ASMR, the phenomenon where YouTubers attempt to elicit a euphoric physical response through specific audio triggers. At one point, Jónsi's barely intelligible mouth sounds circle clockwise around the speakers, clicking and cooing. It's here where you might start to feel like a baby in utero, responding involuntarily to messages from an expectant outside world, awaiting a different kind of eruption.

destination head-on. There was no signage suggesting (or prohibiting) laying down. This was an organic reaction, a complete surrender to the multi-sensory experience.

On an initial full sitting of Obsidian, it's easy to imagine yourself standing at the base of Fagradalsfjall, bearing witness to the intense beauty and chaos of our planet. That's the literal reading, of course. It says so right on the sign by the entrance.

But after multiple sittings, you begin to locate yourself somewhere else entirely, at Jónsi's provocation but outside his control. Lulled by his hypnotic musical stylings and the earth's guttural moans, the mind wanders from the artist's vision to wherever your own memories and prophecies carry you. Of nothingness and then birth. Of life and then death. But, of course, always back to birth once more. ■

Obsidian can be experienced at the Art Gallery of Ontario until August 7, 2023. Can't make it to Toronto? Buy Jónsi's solo album, *Obsidian*, on Bandcamp or stream it wherever you listen to music. Close your eyes and imagine you're inside the volcano.

Obsidian is presented as the inside of a volcano as it gurgles to life, erupts, then hardens.

like his falsetto vocals, choral backing and dreamy orchestral arrangements, are present during select sequences. Interspersed throughout are long stretches of natural sounds, as the hisses of steam breaking through rocks build up to cataclysm. In all phases, he uses the multi-directional capabilities of the speaker setup to great effect, creating a

To that end, those who spend significant time observing Obsidian invariably strike a similar pose, curling forward with a bowed head in an almost meditative state. A smaller cohort took a second position, instinctively splaying backward into the middle of the box in order to stare upward toward the flickering summit, as if ready to greet their



Ókeypis tónleikar alla sunnudaga í sumar.
Free concerts every Sunday this summer.



The Nordic House



PAVEMENT



ELDBORG HALL • HARPA
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS



SKAKKAMANAGE
THURSDAY • JULY 27



BOTNLEÐJA
FRIDAY • JULY 28



MAMMÚT
SATURDAY • JULY 29

 **#PILGRIMAGEOFSOUND**

TICKETS AT TIX.IS

Centre Map

We're here to fill you in on our personal favourite places around town – and a few to consider avoiding.

Dining

- 1 **NAPOLI**
Tryggvagata 24
We love places that do one thing and do them damn well. This take-away place is a case in point. Napoli offers sourdough Neapolitan-style pizzas with a menu to match – think margherita, quattro formaggi, parma, calzone – plus vegan options and magnificent sandwiches. Look out for their lunch offer, every day from 11:30 to 15:00. JT
- 2 **GAETA GELATO**
Aðalstræti 6 & Hlemmur Mathöll
Gaeta Gelato is at the centre of a heated ongoing debate at the Grapevine office about who makes the best ice cream in the country. For those keen on the deep tastiness of Italian gelato, this place is IT. They are also located right smack downtown, so you can take that icecream for a stroll – we suggest a stroll to their other location for another scoop. JT
- 3 **PLANTAN**
Njálsgata 64
This cute little neighborhood cafe is 100% vegan and does a few things right: their soup of the day menu updates every week and uses seasonal produce, they mastered the plant-based cheese bun recipe to perfection, and this might be the most hearty vegan brunches in town. Look out for the daily bun and coffee deal, it truly is like a warm hug. IZ
- 4 **BRAUÐ & CO.**
Frakkastígur 16 (and other locations)
If you're dying to have some of the finest pastry, look no further than Brauð & Co. Although the bakery has several locations around town, our hearts are devoted to the Frakkastígur one. You have to try their pretzel croissants, vegan cinnamon rolls, and weekend specials. There's nothing quite like sitting on a bench at the intersection of Njálsgata, Frakkastígur, and Kárástígur, sipping coffee and enjoying the sun. A true weekend essential! (Beware of windy weather, as some of our team members may or may not have had their pastry stolen by the wind at that exact spot.) IZ
- 5 **CAFÉ BABALÚ**
Skólavörðustígur 22
This quirky café hangout is a great choice when you're looking for a cozy, chill experience. Decked with kitschy decor and plush chairs, the café is perfect for a refuge from an instant shower of rain. If you're looking to snuggle up with a book and a good cup of coffee, look no further. JB
- 6 **BAN THAI**
Laugavegur 130
The absolute GOAT – as they say – in Thai cuisine in Reykjavík. Ban

Thai's menu is dotted with little symbols of chili, denoting the spice level of each course. You're welcome to order a level-5 chili course, but do so at your own risk. JB

7 **GRÁI KÖTTURINN**
Hverfisgata 16a
This no-nonsense downtown staple has been serving Reykjavík dwellers quality breakfast food since 1997. Tucked away in a cute cellar, the diner boasts retro Icelandic design charm, while its menu is far from outdated. Pancakes, bagels and frying oil all have their special place at Grái Kötturinn. As Grái Kötturinn closes at 14:30 every day, it's not a place for nighthawks, but early-birds. JB

8 **CHICKPEA**
Hallveigarstígur 1
This Mediterranean-inspired restaurant is a great place for a quick bite. Servings are generous and the food nutritious, meaning you'll go full well into the day. They do wraps, falafels, and all kinds of salads exceptionally well. Prices aren't extremely steep, but nothing to write home about either. JB

9 **KRÓNAN**
Hallveigarstígur 1 & more locations
If you're ever in a pinch while looking for something cheap to eat if you're downtown just go to Krónan and pick out some flatkökur. Flatkökur goes great with everything. Be it the Mediterranean/Icelandic fusion of lathering some with hummus, or turn it into a poor-man's pizza with pizza sauce and cheese. Honestly, the flatkaka is an empty canvas for you to paint your wildest dreams on. JB

10 **JÓMFRÚIN**
Lækjargata 4, 101 Reykjavík
Icelanders may have a love-hate relationship with the Danes, but let's be honest, who can resist craving a delicious smørrebrød every now and then? If you get what we are talking about, there's no better place in town for an authentic Danish smørrebrød than Jómfrúin. This family-run restaurant specializes in serving Danish and Scandinavian dishes, and to top it off, it boasts a fantastic outdoor terrace where you can relax, sip a beer and complain about politics overlooking the Icelandic parliament. IZ

Drinking



12 **KEX HOSTEL**
Skúlagata 28
The former biscuit factory now serves as a trendy hostel, with a bar, restaurant and a live concert space. There's always something going on, and if not, it's a great spot to grab those after-work drinks. With a rotation of foreign tourists who stumble onto a heavy metal show happening in the restaurant, you're always bound for an enjoyable experience. JB

13 **KAFFIBARINN**
Bergstaðastræti 1
No words are needed for Kaffibarinn. The hangout spot for the who's who of Reykjavík. Frequented by Blur members in the 90s, drug dealers, and middle-managers, Kaffibarinn is an establishment in itself. JB

14 **VITABAR**
Bergþórugata 21, Iceland
If you're staying in Reykjavík more than a few days, you ought to find your own dive bar – this is ours. It seems like the time froze at Vitabar, but we love it that way. People come for their famous blue cheese burger, but stay for a few pints and delicious fries. Sometimes I wish Vitabar discovered craft beer, but I go back nevertheless – for a late night bite and Thule on draft. IZ

15 **VÍNSTÚKAN TÍU SOPAR**
Laugavegur 27
There are a few bars in Reykjavík that have learned how to do wine right, and Vínstúkan Tíu sopar, although located in the middle of the chaos and tourist buzz of Laugavegur, is one of them. Craving Pét-nat? In the mood for orange wine? Ready to explore small Slovenian wineries? You name it – the bar's staff will be ready to come up with suggestions that will suit any pocket. Don't get me started on their small bites to pair with wine – I'm already dreaming about their grilled peppers and torched broccoli with salted lemon. IZ

Shopping & Activities

16 **BÍÓ PARADÍS**
Hverfisgata 54
Sometimes the smell of popcorn fills the air of Hverfisgata, as if beckoning you to come inside. You succumb and find yourself in the cutest art house cinema with colourful posters on the walls and vintage-looking bar straight outta Wes Anderson movie. There's always a film screening and you rarely need to book tickets in advance, so enjoy the old school walk-in experience and one of the best Happy Hours in town. IZ

Random Spots

17 **EINARSGARÐUR**
Laufásvegur 79
This little green space nestled into the curving juncture of Laufásvegur and Gamla Hringbraut is an oasis in the city. Exposed to full sun



seemingly all the time, it's a peaceful spot to stroll through, climb trees, luxuriate on the grass or toss the ball for your four-legged friend. Don't do that last thing, though. It's not allowed. CF

Be Warned

18 **101 BISTRO**
Austurstræti 3
The bistro on the corner of Ingólfs-torg and Austurstræti that has a plaque outside saying, "Come in and try the worst [insert popular food item] that one guy on Tripadvisor said we had", or something like that. It's a trap, do not go there. That plaque has been in the same spot ever since Hrunið. RG

19 **SBARRO**
Austurstræti 17 & Vatnsmýrarvegur 10
"What is this shit?" is how Greil Marcus famously opened his review of Bob Dylan's 1970 album in Rolling Stone. It is appropriate here. It looks like pizza, it is sold as pizza, it's

priced like foie gras, but it tastes like salted shit. Avoid. RG

20 **REYKJAVÍK FISH RESTAURANT**
Tryggvagata 8
Our beef with this place has to do with their "plokkaði" (Traditional Icelandic Fish Stew). The fish stew is what you make out of fish leftovers and potatoes, adding bechamel sauce, topped with cheese and then baked. It's generally a good dish, a great way to avoid wasting food and it costs next to nothing to make. Taste wise, there is nothing wrong with how Reykjavík Fish makes their "plokkaði", the problem is that the volume you get for the price is unacceptable; a tiny cast iron pan of fish stew for 2.690 ISK. An outrage. RG

21 **LEBOWSKI BAR**
Laugavegur 20a
A joke that's gone too far. The longest lasting theme bar that sprung up during a theme-bar craze many years ago. The Dude does not abide. RG ■

SHALIMAR PAKISTANI CUISINE
AUSTURSTRÆTI 4, 101 REYKJAVÍK ☎ 551 0 292

ICELANDIC Fish, Lamb & Chicken in original PAKISTANI curries

www.shalimar.is

Tandoori dishes & Nan breads
Kebabs, Samosas & Vegetarian specialities



S

Klappið app

The official ticketing app for public buses in the Reykjavik capital area

Search for "Klappið" in the App Store or on Google Play.

App Store | Google Play

KLAPP

G

NANATHAI / MIXED
THAI RESTAURANT
simple, inexpensive and delicious

open mon-fri : 11.30 – 21.00
sat : 16.30 – 21.00 closed sun

mixed.is
nanathai.online
nanathai125@gmail.com, tel : 588-1810 / 588-1818
Hverfisgata 125, 105 Reykjavik, við Hlemm

C

KAFFIBARINN

LIVE DJ EVERY NIGHT

D

PHOTOS FROM ICELAND

Skólavörðustígur 22

New In Town

La Boutique Design ★

Mýrargata 18

La Boutique Design was an online shop for four years before their modern downtown showroom finally opened in February. The passion project of French-transplant Maxime Sauvageon, the shop is a mixture of Scandinavian and French styles offering high quality, small-brand, sustainability-focused products from Europe and Iceland. Try out the big items from the shop like sofas and chairs, and grab smaller items and gourmet products on the fly, or ask for their consultation on your next big design project!

Opening hours:
Tuesday to Saturday
from 11:00 – 18:00 ■



E

Wine bar & food

VINSTÚKAN TÍU SOPAR

B

FOOD HALL & BAR

PÓSTHÚS

Best of Reykjavik 2023 Best New Open Foodhall

HAPPY HOUR 16:00 - 18:00 FOOD HALL & BAR

POSTHUSSTRÆTI | 101 REYKJAVÍK

F

M

PANFRIED ARCTIC CHARR

ginger, almonds, goat cheese and magic.

FOOD CELLAR
MATARKJALLARINN

PLEASE SCAN TO BOOK A TABLE

Aðalstræti 2, 101 Reykjavík - +354 558 0000 - foodcellar.is

Art Exhibitions

14.07-27.07

Gallery openings, happenings, showings and pop-up exhibitions all around the capital region

Opening

ÁSMUNDARSALUR

Kristin Nordhøy - JANGLE

Kristin Nordhøy's abstract paintings and drawings play with the physiology of sight and the psychology of perception.

OPENS JULY 22

RUNS UNTIL AUGUST 12

Ra Tack - Sunset before feeling your complexity

Expressive textures and colours, dealing with themes of transition, duality, love and longing.

OPENS JULY 22

RUNS UNTIL AUGUST 13

Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir - Hlið vítés / Gates of Hell

A four week workshop that will use clay as a medium to create a familiar but mythical masterpiece.

OPENS JULY 27

RUNS UNTIL AUGUST 13

GALLERY PORT

Internally Comfortable

In the new exhibition by Icelandic-Ukrainian duo, warmth and calm meet the dissonance of impending missiles.

OPENS JULY 22

RUNS UNTIL AUGUST 10

NÚLLIÐ GALLERY

Glytta - Nytjahamur

A satire on consumer culture, and people as consumer goods and utilities of the system.

OPENS JULY 21

RUNS UNTIL JULY 23

THE SCULPTURE ASSOCIATION GARDEN

Brynhildur Þorgeirsdóttir - Jarðrask / Earth Disturbance

The exhibition is a celebration of the artist's 40th professional anniversary.

OPENS JULY 20

RUNS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2

SLIPPARINN

Rauðskinna - Í Myrkri
Rauðskinna's art explores what the mind conjures in the dark.

OPENS JULY 20

RUNS UNTIL AUGUST 4

Ongoing

ÁSMUNDARSAFN (REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM)

Mentor: Ásmundur Sveinsson and Carl Milles

Sculpture.

RUNS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 9

ÁSMUNDARSALUR

Veronika Geiger & Hallgerður Hallgrímsdóttir

Photography workshop

RUNS UNTIL JULY 17

Geirprúður Finnbogadóttir Hjörvar

Design works

RUNS UNTIL JULY 16

CAFÉ PYSJA

Skúlpúrveizla

Group exhibition by the Sculptors Association

RUNS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 3

EINAR JÓNSSON MUSEUM

Einar Jónsson - Sculpture Works & Garden

Sculpture

PERMANENT EXHIBITION

GALLERY GRÁSTEINN

Vicente Garcia Fuentes: Horizons

Paintings

RUNS UNTIL AUGUST 1

GALLERÍ GRÓTTA

Björg Eiríksdóttir - FJÖLRÖDDUN

Paintings, drawings, video, and textile works

RUNS UNTIL AUGUST 18

GALLERY PORT

Peter Jeppson - Wake Up and Smell the Coffee

Paintings

RUNS UNTIL JULY 20

GALLERY UNDERPASS

Helgi Hjaltalín & Pétur Örn - Markmið XVI

Photography

RUNS UNTIL JULY 15

GERÐARSAFN (KÓPAVOGUR ART MUSEUM)

ÞYKJÓ

Design works

RUNS UNTIL JULY 31

Rósa Gísladóttir - FORA

Sculpture

RUNS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 17

GERÐUR

Sculpture works of Gerður Helgadóttir from the museum's collection.

RUNS UNTIL DECEMBER 31

GERÐUBERG CULTURE HOUSE

Art Without Borders - All Roads Open

Multidisciplinary group exhibition

RUNS UNTIL AUGUST 31

GLERHÚSIÐ REYKJAVÍK

Gunnhildur Hauksdóttir - From Heart to Stone - Circle of Sight

Ink drawings, sculptures, and sound installations; open on Sundays only

RUNS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 17

HAFNARBORG CENTER OF CULTURE AND FINE ART

Hildur Ásgeirsdóttir Jónsson - On a Sea of Tranquillity

Textile works

RUNS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 3

Elísabet Brynhildardóttir - Hesitant Line

Drawings

RUNS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 3

HAFNARHÚS (REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM)

D48: Dýrfinna Benita Basalan - Chronic Pain

Mixed media

RUNS UNTIL AUGUST 20

Kaleidoscope: Icelandic 21st Century Art

Multidisciplinary group exhibition

RUNS UNTIL DECEMBER 31

Erró - Cunning Scissors

Works spanning the entirety of Erró's vibrant art career

RUNS UNTIL DECEMBER 31

HARPA

Circuleight

Mixed media installation

PERMANENT EXHIBITION

HÖFUÐSTÖÐIN

Shoplifter / Hrafnhildur Arnardóttir - Chromo Sapiens

Installation, colourful whole body experience

PERMANENT EXHIBITION

I8 GALLERY

Karin Sander - Idioscapes

Installation, 3D landscape maquettes

RUNS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2

I8 GRANDI

B. Ingrid Olson - Cast of Mind

Installation, mixed media

RUNS UNTIL DECEMBER 20

KJARVALSSTAÐIR (REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM)

Kaleidoscope: Icelandic 20th Century Art

Paintings, sketches, drafts, and more

RUNS UNTIL AUGUST 7

KLING & BANG

certain technicalities of being

Multidisciplinary group exhibition

RUNS UNTIL AUGUST 31

THE LIVING ART MUSEUM

Leftovers - Performance Series

Performance art; weekly performances every Saturday afternoon

RUNS UNTIL AUGUST 3

LISTHÚS ÓFEIGS

Guðný M Magnúsdóttir - ÚR HRING

Ceramics

RUNS UNTIL JULY 26

MOSFELLSBÆR ART GALLERY

Habby Ósk - Components

Sculptures and photography

RUNS UNTIL JULY 28

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ARTS

Ýrúrarí - Presence

Textile works, installation

RUNS UNTIL AUGUST 27

Nina Gautadóttir - Weaver in Residency

Textile works

RUNS UNTIL AUGUST 27

At Home in the Design Museum

Over 200 examples of Icelandic design from 1900 to the present

RUNS UNTIL MARCH 2026

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND

Sigtryggur Bjarni Baldvinsson - Into the Valley in Late Autumn

Watercolour paintings

RUNS UNTIL AUGUST 27

Rúri - Glassrain

Installation

RUNS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 17

The Thought of Drawing

Drawings by Jóhannes S. Kjarval

RUNS UNTIL OCTOBER 1

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND

Rúnar Gunnarsson - An eternity in a moment

Photography

RUNS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 9

NORDIC HOUSE

For Those Who Couldn't Cross the Sea

Multidisciplinary group exhibition

RUNS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 3

NÚLLIÐ GALLERY

Myrkríð - Heima Er Verzt

Paintings, found art, mixed media

RUNS UNTIL JULY 16

PHENOMENON GALLERY

Katrín Inga Jónsdóttir Hjördísardóttir - Real Dream 3-6-9

Installation, mixed media

RUNS UNTIL JULY 30

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Giita Hammond - View From The Sea

Photography and video work

RUNS UNTIL AUGUST 13

And Now In Full Colour!

Colour photo from Iceland 1950-1970

RUNS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 10

SIGURJÓN ÓLAFSSON MUSEUM

The Gift of Children

Portraits and reliefs

RUNS UNTIL AUTUMN 2023

From Various Sources

Sculpture

RUNS UNTIL AUTUMN 2023

SÍM GALLERY

LO-renzo - I found my island - bolide Z

Expansionist poetic project, mixed media

RUNS UNTIL JULY 28

PULA GALLERY

Sunneva Ása Weissshappel - Flagð / Jezebel

Mixed media

RUNS UNTIL AUGUST 6 ■

Art Picks



Sunneva Ása Weissshappel - Jezebel
Runs until August 6
Pula Gallery

A confrontation of the constructs of femininity, an examination of social exclusion and one-dimensional stereotypes. In *Jezebel* the viewer is faced with the scars of societal female expectations. Interdisciplinary artist Sunneva Ása Weissshappel tackles power struggles, the longing for connection and the complexity of female social structures. With materials like hair, lace, oil, wax, and rusted iron. Grit and softness play against each other to expose the traces of these wounds. RX



Karin Sander - Ideoscapes
Runs until September 2
i8 Gallery

We live in a world where the boundaries of technological possibility and artistic output are becoming more and more blurred. This is both exhilarating and terrifying, but leaves us with more tools than ever to make art. Karin Sander's new exhibition shows Icelandic mountain landscapes as 3D maquettes printed from precise data sets comprising only the mountain and its immediate context. Far more than simply 3D printing, the translation of the 2D images and 3D scans of the source material is an exploration into the potential ambiguities of conveying the poetic process. RX



Rauðskinna - Í Myrkri
From July 20 until August 4
Slipparinn

We may still be three months away from spooky season, but the macabre never takes a holiday. Illustrator and tattooer Rauðskinna's exhibition celebrates the eternally mystical and what the mind conjures up in darkness. Creating intricately ornate works with the classic combo of fountain pen and paper, her works are fit to grace the walls of the most Gothic mansions, hermit dens and black metal album covers. This show features both her ink works and lino cuts, and will take you on a wonderfully macabre ride. RX

GOOD THURSDAY MONTHLY ART CRAWL. ON THE LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH A NUMBER OF MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITION SPACES OFFER EXTENDED OPENING HOURS AND SPECIAL EVENTS. **CONTEMPORARY ART IN THE CITY.**



Events 14.07-27.07

Concerts, comedy, movies and other happenings that defy categorization

If you're putting something on for the general public, send us a line to: events@grapevine.is

Friday July 14

Björn Jörundur
19:00 Bæjarbíó
Jack Rocks Festival
20:00 Gaukurinn
DJ Karítas
23:00 Kaffibarinn
DJ DÍA
20:00 Kex Hostel
NØ MAN, FAIM, Skelkur í bringu, Duft
18:00 R6013

Saturday July 15

Klara Elíasar
19:00 Bæjarbíó
UNME V: Lafontaine X Halldóra
20:00 Bravó
Jack Rocks Festival
20:00 Gaukurinn
Organ Summer Concert
12:00 Hallgrímskirkja
Pearls of Icelandic Song
17:00 Harpa – Kaldalón
DJ Benni B Ruff
23:00 Kaffibarinn
DJ Krummi Ben
20:00 Kex Hostel
EVA 808: BROTIÐ GLER w/ Skeng, Maggi-B & Elísabet
23:00 Prikið
Cassette Store Day
13:00 Space Odyssey

Sunday July 16

Organ Summer Concert
17:00 Hallgrímskirkja
Welcome Home Series: Sólveig Vaka Eypórsdóttir
16:00 Harpa – Hörpuhorn
PIKKNIKK #4: Stijn Brinkman & Moritz Christiansen
15:00 Nordic House
Monday July 17
Open Decks w/ DÍA
20:00 Bravó
Bring The Laughs: Comedy Night
20:00 Gaukurinn
Hrikalegur Kjöhleifur
22:00 Kaffibarinn
Tuesday July 18
Karaoke Night
20:00 Gaukurinn
DJ André
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Trío Frigg
20:30 Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum

Wednesday July 19

Tomashevsky
20:00 Bravó
Tom Gamble (UK)
20:00 Gaukurinn
Pearls of Icelandic Song
17:00 Harpa – Kaldalón
Ingvar Lucky & Sammi
22:00 Kaffibarinn
Richard Andersson NOR Trio feat. Hilmar Jensson
20:00 Múlinn Jazz Club

Thursday July 20

Una Torfa
19:00 Bæjarbíó
Eternal Roots
20:00 Bravó
Spacebreaker
20:00 Gaukurinn
Pearls of Icelandic Song
17:00 Harpa – Kaldalón
Ingi Bjarni Skúlason, Nicolas Moreaux & Scott Mclemore
19:00 Hotel Holt
Kjörk
22:00 Kaffibarinn
DJ Woe-anna Newsom
20:00 Kex Hostel

Friday July 21

Eyþór Ingi & Babies flokkurinn
19:00 Bæjarbíó
KGB
20:00 Bravó
Striplab
20:00 Gaukurinn
Young G&T & Mr Munoz
23:00 Kaffibarinn
DJ N0thing2w3ar
20:00 Kex Hostel

Saturday July 22

Groove Galaxy Presents: KRBear, Thorkell Máni, Leon S Kemp & more
20:00 Bravó
Karaoke Party
20:00 Gaukurinn
Organ Summer Concert
12:00 Hallgrímskirkja
Pearls of Icelandic Song
17:00 Harpa – Kaldalón
Svavar Knútur & Kristjana Stefáns
20:00 Iðnó
Olle Abstrakt & Simon fknhdsm
23:00 Kaffibarinn
DJ KGB
20:00 Kex Hostel

Sunday July 23

Sunday Club
20:00 Bravó
Orbital Hotel Band (AUT)
20:00 Gaukurinn
Organ Summer Concert
17:00 Hallgrímskirkja
Welcome Home Series: Björgvin Ragnar Hjálmarsson
16:00 Harpa – Hörpuhorn
DJ Lamp Vader
22:00 Kaffibarinn
PIKKNIKK #5: a rawlings & Rike Scheffler
15:00 Nordic House

Monday July 24

Minimal Monday
20:00 Bravó
Marsipan
20:00 Gaukurinn
Silja Glömmi
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Tuesday July 25

Karaoke Night
20:00 Gaukurinn
Pearls of Icelandic Song
17:00 Harpa – Kaldalón
Dagbjartur
22:00 Kaffibarinn
Ragnheiður Ingunn Jóhannsdóttir & Eva Þyri Hilmarsdóttir
20:30 Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum

Wednesday July 26

Luana Schwenngeber
20:00 Bravó
BKPM, Juno Paul & Krassoff
20:00 Gaukurinn
Pearls of Icelandic Song
17:00 Harpa – Kaldalón
Terrordisco
22:00 Kaffibarinn
Stefan Karl Schmid Quartet
20:00 Múlinn Jazz Club

Thursday July 27

Leon S Kemp
20:00 Bravó
Meistarar Dauðans
20:00 Gaukurinn
Pavement (US)
18:00 Harpa – Eldborg
Pearls of Icelandic Song
17:00 Harpa – Kaldalón
DJ Natalie
22:00 Kaffibarinn
DJ Lamp Vader
20:00 Kex Hostel ■

See more at events.grapevine.is

Event Picks



NØ MAN, FAIM, Skelkur í bringu, Duft
Friday July 14, 18:00
R6013, Ingólfsstræti 20
Pay what you can, all-ages

It's time for some good ol' fashioned political hardcore over at R6013, Reykjavík's grassroots centre of system-smashing punks and rap-scallions. Denver-based band FAIM will bring their rise-to-action cry with full-force, alongside DC punks NØ MAN's chaotic and melodic riffs. The lineup is rounded out by local bands Skelkur í bringu, with their trippy flashy mayhem, and newcomers Duft, who are quickly rising up in the punk scene. Get critical, ask questions, take action. **RX**



EVA 808 Presents: BROTIÐ GLER
Saturday July 15, 23:00
Prikið
Pay what you can

It's a rare treat for us to get a show from production wizard EVA808 here in Reykjavík. The Icelandic-born sound artist is based in Sweden and spends most of her time working in the UK. But she's coming back to celebrate the release of her latest album, *ÖÐURVÍSI*, which she self-released on her own label and media tool, GLER. The album is super unique and compelling and will surely make an entrancing live multimedia show, with visuals by Studio 23. Artists Skeng and Elísabet will warm up and Maggi-B will keep the night hyped as MC. **RX**



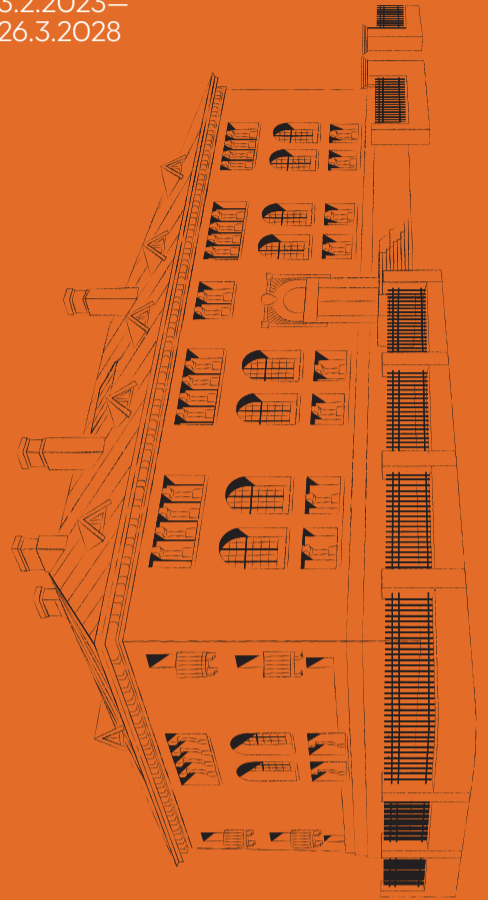
#5 PIKKNIKK: a rawlings & Rike Scheffler
Sunday July 23, 15:00
Nordic House
Free

For the fifth instalment, of the PIKKNIKK concert series interdisciplinary artists a rawlings and Rike Scheffler are doing something far beyond the scope of what one would expect for a Sunday afternoon show. The Canadian-Icelandic and German duo will be premiering a new collaborative devised site-responsive piece that engages with the surrounding wetlands that the Nordic House inhabits. Using sound, voice, poetics and movement, they will interact with Vatnsmýri's own performance and incite guests to take close consideration of all the senses evoked. This ain't your mamma's picnic. **RX**

Safnahúsið The House of Collections

Viðnám:
Samspil myndlistar og vísinda
Resistance:
Interplay of Art and Science

3.2.2023–
26.3.2028

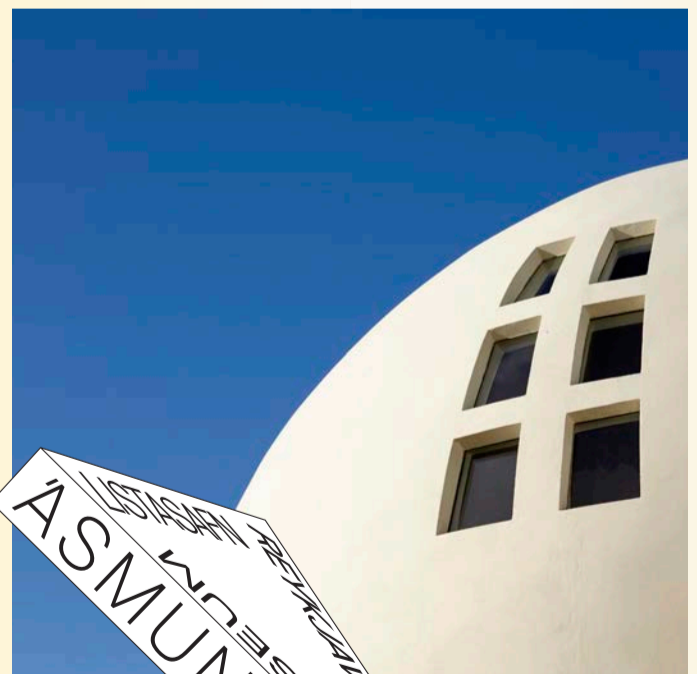


Free admission for children & teens

Listasafn Íslands
National Gallery of Iceland

20.05.–03.09.2023

Mentor
Ásmundur Sveinsson
Carl Milles



Ásmundarsafn
Sigtúni
105 Reykjavík
+354 411 6430

Open daily
10h00–17h00
artmuseum.is
#reykjavikartmuseum



Music News



Slóra To Premiere 20-Minute Improvisational Piece

The newly formed band Slóra, comprised of musicians Sara Flindt, and singer and keyboardist, and drummer Svanhildur Lóa, are kickstarting their career with a 20-minute long track. The track traces its origins back to March 2023, when it was borne out of an improvisational session in Studio Sundlaugin. In collaboration with Halldór Eldjárn and Albert

Finnbogason, the track was produced, while a video recording of the affair was shot by Vikram Pradhan. The video, which consists of Sara and Svanhildur performing opposite each other, is set to premiere in Bíó Paradís on July 31. On August 1, it will be digitally premiered on The Reykjavik Grapevine's website.



Icelandic Artists Return From Skrapt Festival in Tórshavn

The newly concluded Faroese music festival Skrapt took place in Tórshavn on July 7-9. The celebration was prompted by local Faroese musicians and venue managers inspired by Iceland's Extreme Chill Festival. This year, Icelandic artists Cell7, Gugusar, Hermigervill, Pan Thorarensen and dj. flugvél & geimskip took the Faroe Islands by storm

over the course of the weekend. A majority of the artists performing were Faroese and Icelandic, but Danish and British acts rounded out the lineup. Arnar Eggert Thorrodsen, a music journalist and musicologist, was at the festival's first installment and chronicled the festivities on his website.



Maus Reissues Fifth LP On Vinyl

Alternative rock band Maus announced they are reissuing their 2003 LP, *Musick*. Birgir Örn Steinsson, singer and frontman of Maus, announced the news on his Facebook page. *Musick* was Maus' fifth album and it is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The vinyl release of *Musick* is set to hit store

shelves in the next few weeks. The alternative rock band, which first gained prominence as the winners of the 1994 Músiktilraunir battle of the bands, is also due to commemorate 30 years of operation in 2023. Maus will perform at this year's Bræðslan festival, held in Borgarfjörður Eystrí in East Iceland. ■



Feature

Do It Together Kind Of Magic

Hátíðni, a festival that also feels like home

WORDS Iryna Zubenko
IMAGES Joana Fontinha

crashing a birthday party where you don't know anyone but end up having a wonderful time nonetheless. The line between visitors, organisers and artists is so blurry, it almost feels like it doesn't exist at all. It feels simultaneously like the most organised festival I've ever been to and an obscure, structureless event where no one knows what's going on. And yet, it works perfectly well.

there to support him. "This is what family does."

With a striking contrast to any other music festival I've been to – crowded, anxiety-inducing, to a certain extent too loud and sometimes aggressive – Hátíðni seems like a utopian haven in the world of festivals. But what about the crowd?

MISFITS MEET ODDBALLS

As I join a sleepy cook on the kitchen shift after the festival's opening night, I experience a feeling of

A mismatched group of people wearing layers of wool (it's July, yet

Nestled in a tiny village of Borðeyri in north-west Iceland, one couldn't think of a better backdrop for Hátíðni. Never-ending fields of lupines, a fjord stretching as far as the eye can see and a profound silence – a rarity for a modern city-dweller. A short walk downhill and the sound of music slamming fills the air, emanating from a former slaughterhouse. What's going on here?

COLLECTIVE FUN

Run by the art collective Post-dreifing for the fifth consecutive year, Hátíðni feels like the cosiest music festival in the world and simultaneously not a festival at all. Imagine

It feels simultaneously like the most organised festival I've ever been to and an obscure, structureless event where no one knows what's going on. And yet, it works perfectly well.

camaraderie – everyone volunteers, lending a helping hand wherever it is needed, picking up trash and keeping their surroundings clean. At least two of the eight Borðeyri residents pop into the gigs, observing the stage with curiosity. Lilja, whose granddaughter's boyfriend is playing tonight, is unimpressed, but is still

temperatures at night drop as low as 5 degrees Celsius), Hátíðni's crowd embodies something stereotypically Icelandic. And yet, Hátíðni welcomes everyone despite how you look, where you come from, what you do for work, or whether your grandma knitted you a lopapeysa. "What brings me to Iceland is that

A UNIQUE GIFT SHOP IN THE HEART OF REYKJAVÍK
LAUGAVEGUR 12b theheartofreykjavik.com





the people here have this authenticity," says Suraj Bharti, a 20-year old from Nepal doing an internship in Iceland, while he takes a break for a smoke. "They're not trying to act like, 'oh, I'm an artist.' My friends are in a heavy metal band, so, you have this image – big, scary. But they are the nicest guys ever."

In a similar vein to Suraj, Finnish artist KEliel was drawn to Hátíðni by its unique atmosphere and the people it attracts. Having performed at the festival the previous year, KEliel found himself on the opposite side of the stage this time, but no less enthusiastic. In fact, his experience at Hátíðni had such a profound impact on him that he decided to relocate to Iceland.

"I was so inspired last year that I ended up creating 22 songs after returning to Finland. Now I'm working on finishing the album and it felt quite fitting to come back here to complete it," KEliel shares. His connection to Hátíðni goes beyond the music; it's the spirit of the festival and the friendships formed that have left a lasting impression. "I got to know so many people last year and I met some good friends. I felt that it's my responsibility to come because I'm here in Iceland."

YOU OWN IT

Snæi Jack, who stood behind the first ever Hátíðni back in 2018, as well as many other festivals and events in Iceland, finds himself in a new role this year – he's learning to be a guest again. "Over the last years, in the organising team, we have tried to ensure that we are inviting new people to come in and making everybody feel like they own this too," he shares. "Because they do. We feel like everybody at Hátíðni should feel like they own it." According to Snæi Jack, while the 2023 edition is not much different from the previous year, it's completely dif-

ferent from the first Hátíðni. "There's no one organising it right now that was organising the first Hátíðni in 2018. It's kind of graduated now."

One of the festival's organisers, Simon Valentin Hirt, says that at first it was challenging to enjoy the festival while trying to run it. "On the first day, that's definitely the case – you always have to do something, set something up and you're looking more closely if things are working or not. But then after that, things were just rolling. It was also easy to enjoy the festival, see shows and have fun."

Most people involved in Hátíðni's organisation this year, have never done it before. "It was just really amazing and beautiful to see how things worked out and how everyone worked together," says Simon.

Everybody at Hátíðni should feel like they own it.

The festival has expanded the venue this year, adding an extra space for an art gallery. The day programme also featured creative writing and incense making workshops.

"IS THIS A NOISE FESTIVAL?"

This was the first question a friend asked when I told them I was going to Hátíðni. While it partly makes sense, translating 'hátíðni' as noise, there's no easy way to describe Hátíðni in terms of music. Post-dreifing welcomes a diverse range of artists representing multiple genres, and the weirder and more experimental, the better, from raw punk Sucks to be you, Nigel to energising Ókindarhjarta – the ultimate party band, if you ask us.

Dream pop artist lúpína appeared

on the stage with a choir of her friends, adding to the homemade atmosphere of the festival. The artist now lives in Norway and performing in Iceland feels like a homecoming. "It feels really safe to come back and play here. This bubble kind of dared me to make music," she says.

Hátíðni is a very beginner-friendly festival, admits a band who flew to Iceland all the way from the USA. "I've been learning Icelandic for a while and, as a way to practise, I started listening to Icelandic music. Then I found out about Post-dreifing and Hátíðni and I got really interested in it," shares Aliza, a high school student from Washington.

ONLY AT HÁTÍÐNI

"The vibe here is really great. It's a group effort," agree members of the experimental post-punk band Virgin

Orchestra as we meet during breakfast on the festival's final day.

It's just before 11:00, but everyone is trying to finish their food before an acoustic show of Supersport! at the gallery space. It was only the night before that the festival's infokeeper, Kári Fjóluson Thoroddsen, made a speech from the stage, offering a special sign-up sheet for those afraid of oversleeping the gig. He promised that a member of Supersport! would personally wake them up. The gig turned out to be a full house, and legends have already started circulating about Kári's speech. Modestly, he admits, "It's been going really well. Well, like my friend says, 'This is a shitshow. But it's supposed to be a shitshow.'" ■

Hátíðni took place in Borðeyri on June 30-July 2.

FISHERMAN'S FISHSOUP

smoked haddock,
langoustine, dill, scallops
and magic.

FOOD CELLAR
MATARKJALLARINN

John P wrote a review

Possibly the best meal I've had in 40 years of global travel. Ambience was superb, service was absolutely impeccable, and food was amazing. Seafood soup, lamb, ...

Date of visit: May 2023

→→→ PLEASE SCAN TO BOOK A TABLE →→→

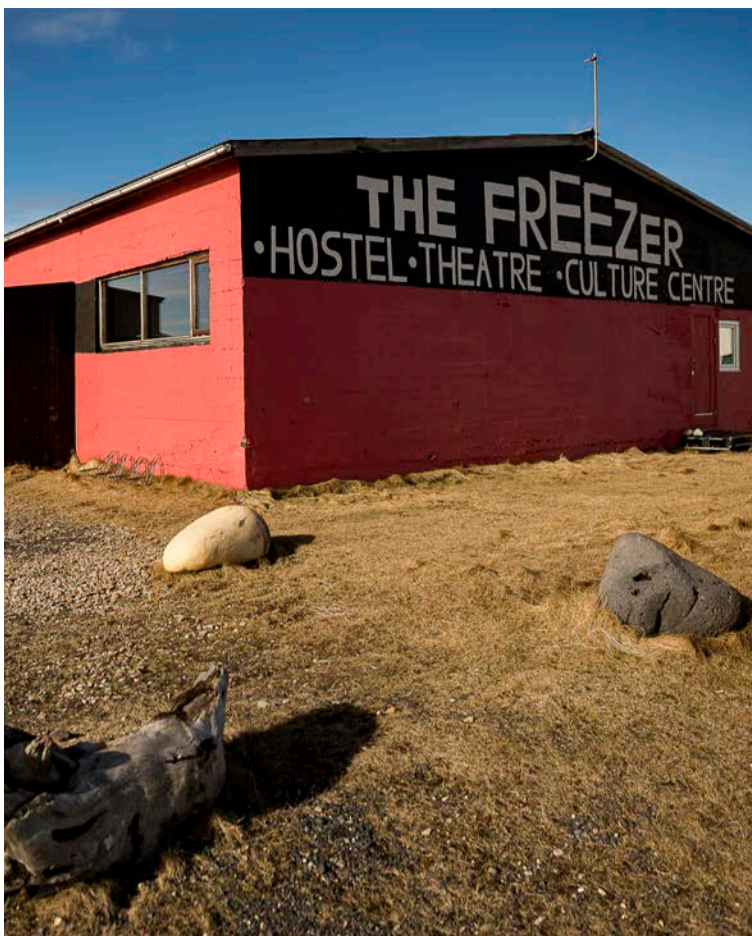
Aðalstræti 2, 101 Reykjavík · +354 558 0000 · matarkjallarinn.is

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND

The National Museum of Iceland
Suðurgata 41, 102 Reykjavík

Opening Hours
Daily 10-17

www.nationalmuseum.is
+354 530 2200
@thjodminjasafn



What happened last night?

Berta Pérez Solé, Hostel Attendant

A cosy night at the Freezer Hostel

WORDS Berta Pérez Solé
IMAGE Art Bicnick

Rif. A band from Belgium is performing tonight. That means I will be playing host, bartender and stagehand, helping the artists find anything they might need whatsoever. Whether it's assisting them in finding the necessary technical equipment or making sure they have something to eat, I'm on it.

The band is getting ready to play. They start to rehearse and need all sorts of things, but mostly technical support. Good thing that I can also listen to them rehearse and prepare for the show they'll be having in a few hours.

After a while, it's almost time for the band to start and people are already pouring in. Almost everybody comes around the bar to grab a beer and get themselves comfy.

The band is finally on stage and the concert is as beautiful as it could be. The main singer gets the audience engaged and everybody is having a great time.

One more night achieved. ■

The Freezer is both a hostel and a cultural space, so when you work here, you never know what might happen.

I started a recent evening shift by welcoming all the new guests that are coming to spend their night in



Music Article

“Woohoo!”

Botnleðja reunites – again

WORDS Jóhannes Bjarkason
IMAGE Art Bicnick

As I enter Botnleðja's rehearsal space in Hafnarfjörður's Vellirnir – an industrial workshop the band borrowed from a cousin of their drummer Halli – bassist Ragnar Páll Steinsson rushes past to attend to other business. While his presence is missed, his absence adds to the bassist's enigmatic reputation.

BOTNLEÐJA'S BACKGROUND

The story of Botnleðja goes: Three 20-year-olds from Hafnarfjörður conquer the 1995 iteration of Músíktilraunir – Iceland's annual battle of the bands. Their debut album *Drullumall* was released the same year and features the now classic track “Þið eruð frábær” with the vocalised hook, “Woohoo!” The hook in question is said to have influenced (or been plagiarised by, depending on who you ask) Blur's Damon Albarn for “Song 2.”

Botnleðja subsequently embarked on a tour with Blur in the UK, came home and released five albums, the final one being *Iceland National Park* in 2004. Nine years later, the band reformed to release the double-sided *Þegar Öllu Er Á Botninn Hvolft*, a collection of remasters, B-sides, demos and new material. Followed by open rehearsals that same summer – a series of low-profile public performances – their 2013 reunion culminated in a show at Gaukurinn.

THE ART OF NOT GIVING A SHIT

Now, a decade since their last performance, Botnleðja is reuniting – again. On July 27, the band will

“We're a band that's always had a slacker element,” singer Heiðar Örn Kristjánsson jumps in. “We've wanted to preserve the rawness of our music and not keep things over-produced. You should be able to hear that there are people playing these instruments. Pavement has had this attitude of not giving a shit. And we didn't really give a shit about anyone during [the 90s].”

Ten years of inactivity will severely impact your musical ability, but Botnleðja is unphased. “Things are coming into shape. It relies mostly on Halli, as he hasn't played the drums for 10 years. He's not a soft drummer,” says Heiðar.

You should be able to hear that there are people playing these instruments.

support Pavement when the American indie-rockers play for the first time in Iceland. “Pavement is probably the only band that we'd support at this time. No other band could've asked us to perform,” says drummer Haraldur “Halli” Freyr Gíslason.

But despite the band's admiration for Pavement, any influence they've had on Botnleðja's post-hardcore music is not evident. “Well, if you listen closely you can hear some influences,” Halli insists.

“We've been working hard rehearsing,” Halli adds. “It's the same recipe as before,” Heiðar interjects. “Just practise, practise, practise. It's all muscle memory.”

ONE SHOW EVERY DECADE

Six full length albums provide a lot of material to cover. Botnleðja wants to assure fans that songs off every album will be played at the show. They gesture to their set list. “You can't take any pictures,” Heiðar insists. “Some songs are difficult to perform and they're all different for each of us. But the most difficult songs to play are our slower songs. They are so fragile and you don't need much for them to break up,” says Heiðar, referring to the band's 2000 album *Douglas Dakota*, from which two songs will be played on July 27.

With no intention of complicating the logistics, Botnleðja will only feature the three members onstage. “Straight from the cow,” says Heiðar.

Botnleðja is quick to deny any plans beyond their show with Pavement, not wanting to raise hopes around the prospect of future performances. However, the members will celebrate their 50th birthdays and the band's 30th anniversary in 2024. Whether or not fans will have to wait a decade for another gig is anyone's guess. ■

NIK

Natural History Museum of Kópavogur



OPEN
mon–fri 8–18
sat 11–17

**FREE
ADMISSION**



Hamraborg 6a
Kópavogur
natkop.is

The House at Eyrarbakki



Árnessýsla Heritage Museum is located in Húsið, the House, historical home of merchants built in 1765. Húsið is one of the oldest houses in Iceland and a beautiful monument of Eyrarbakki's time as the biggest trading place on the south coast. Today one can enjoy exhibitions about the story and culture of the region. Húsið prides itself with warm and homelike atmosphere.

Opening hours:
May 1st–Sept. 30th daily 10–17
or by an agreement
Tel: +354 483 1504
info@byggdasafn.is
byggdasafn.is





Track By Track

(v2,2)

Róshildur solves tangled emotions

WORDS Jóhannes Bjarkason & Róshildur
IMAGE Supplied by Róshildur

Behind Artist Róshildur's debut EP (v2,2) is a long and intricate story, denoted by the numerical song titles. Róshildur told us all about her newest record, which came alive in Denmark, Flatey, in airports and cafes.

KRÍA (v6,8)

"Kría (v6,8)" came together super quickly, while others on the album marinated for years. The chord progression is simple but the vocals build up the tension and release and tell most of the chord story. I often work only with voice layering and improvisation when starting to produce a new track and then build the song from there. The song describes how the arctic tern (Kría in Icelandic) teaches its babies to fly, by flying away and waiting for them to follow. Somehow I related to this in my relationship. Taking turns and flying further and higher. By doing that, the person who follows then flies even further when it's their turn.

previous songs and says, "this is just some intellectualisation of some invisible feelings of mine, don't take it too seriously."

FÓLK Í BLOKK (v2,3)

The lyrics of "Fólk í blokk (v2,3)" I borrowed from the beloved Icelandic writer, playwright and musician Ólafur Haukur Símonarson. The original song, "Fólkið í blokkinni", describes, in a comical way, the many characters that live together in an apartment complex. How they are all struggling in their own bubble. When taking the text and putting it into this melancholic space, the context of the text reveals new layers to it. I really

This line loops around itself the whole song. It translates to: "Listen to something other than the words, they only complicate what otherwise could be felt."

ORÐIN (v4,5)

"Hlustaðu á eitthvað annað en orðin, þau bara flækja það sem hægt er að finna." This line loops around itself the whole song. It translates to: "Listen to something other than the words, they only complicate what otherwise could be felt." The song's placement on the album takes the texts of the

related to these characters and their small battles that seem big when you are inside them. Then you look at the building they all live in and see how sad and silly being human is. I also feel like, by putting this song last, you could say that I become one of the characters in the building. After singing about my own "sjálf-skaparvíti" (self-made problem) – quoting the song – puts them into a visual and humorous perspective. ■

SKILABOÐ (v7,4)

"Skilaboð (v7,4)" is a contradictory song that describes an inner debate of wanting constant contact with another person but also wanting silence. To hear your own thoughts and feelings but also wanting to hear someone else's. Sonically this song travelled the longest of them all, hence the title "(v7,4)". I recorded the organ with my phone in the church in Flatey. The texture from the organ really countered the strong synths that hold the song up. In that same recording, there was a sound of my chair squeaking and then me flipping a page in my notebook. Those sounds I chopped up and made into the drumbeat that you now hear.



Filthy Interview

An Experimental Birthday Gift

Tuð find balance between anger and candies

WORDS Francesca Stoppani
IMAGE Art Bicnick

Welcome back to the filthiest interview column in Iceland. In this issue, we went to a secret location to interview the non-punk, psytrance-influenced, Reykjavík-based band Skelkur í Bringu.

WE'RE A HAPPY FAMILY

Skelkur í Bringu has three components and two of them are close cousins, Pétur Eggertsson on drums and Steinunn Eldflaug Harðardóttir – who also performs as dj. flugvél og geimskip – on vocals and bass. Hold your "every Icelander is related anyway" jokes as long as you can, please. While guitarist Síggi Hólm Lárusson might not directly be related to Steinunn, they have been friends since high school. The formation of Skelkur í Bringu can be traced back to one peculiar birthday celebration in 2007. "We were going to meet at my house to drink some alcohol," recalls Pétur. "We needed to get a birthday gift for our friend, Sindri Freyr, so we made a bunch of songs about him." Three songs were crafted as a tribute, but the reaction to the gift remains a bit of a mystery. Despite this, the band decided to take their songs to the next level and began performing them.

"They told me I needed to play the bass, so I learned a few weeks before our first show," says Steinunn. Shortly after, they embarked on a four-day tour around Reykjavík. Their musical activities tend to peak during the summertime, with the band feeling a temporary disconnect during the

winter as they hibernate.

"We listen a lot to rockabilly, Indian music and psytrance. We mix everything and then something comes out the other side." Up until now, Skelkur í Bringu has recorded seven albums, but only one has been released. "We are not sure where the masters for most albums are really," Pétur laughs, while Síggi adds: "I'm pretty sure one of them ended up in a pizza box and got thrown up on." The only person who probably has all their albums, whether released or vomited upon, is superfan Hörður Gabriel. "He is a legend in Iceland. Music for him is like what bread is for people. If you want to hear an album that hasn't been released, he has it," explains Steinunn.

THIS MUST BE THE PLACE

Within the Icelandic music scene, the importance of DIY venues cannot be overstated. One such venue that holds great significance for Skelkur í Bringu is R6013. "It's a matter of life or death," says Steinunn who thinks these places are vital as they provide a space for young bands to practice, create and keep music alive. She credits Ægir Sindri Bjarnason for bringing important bands to R6013, as he runs the venue from the basement of his house. Steinunn dreams of seeing Björk grace the venue, while Síggi longs for Metallica. "Sound needs space to travel through," Steinunn concludes. ■

Skelkur í Bringu are performing in the legendary DIY venue R6013 on July 14, alongside hardcore newcomers Duft and foreign bands NØ MAN and FAIM. They promised to release a new song for the occasion. You're coming, right?

HREYFILL
5 88 55 22



Get the taxi app

Get Grapevine Merch!

VOLCANO
COLLECTION

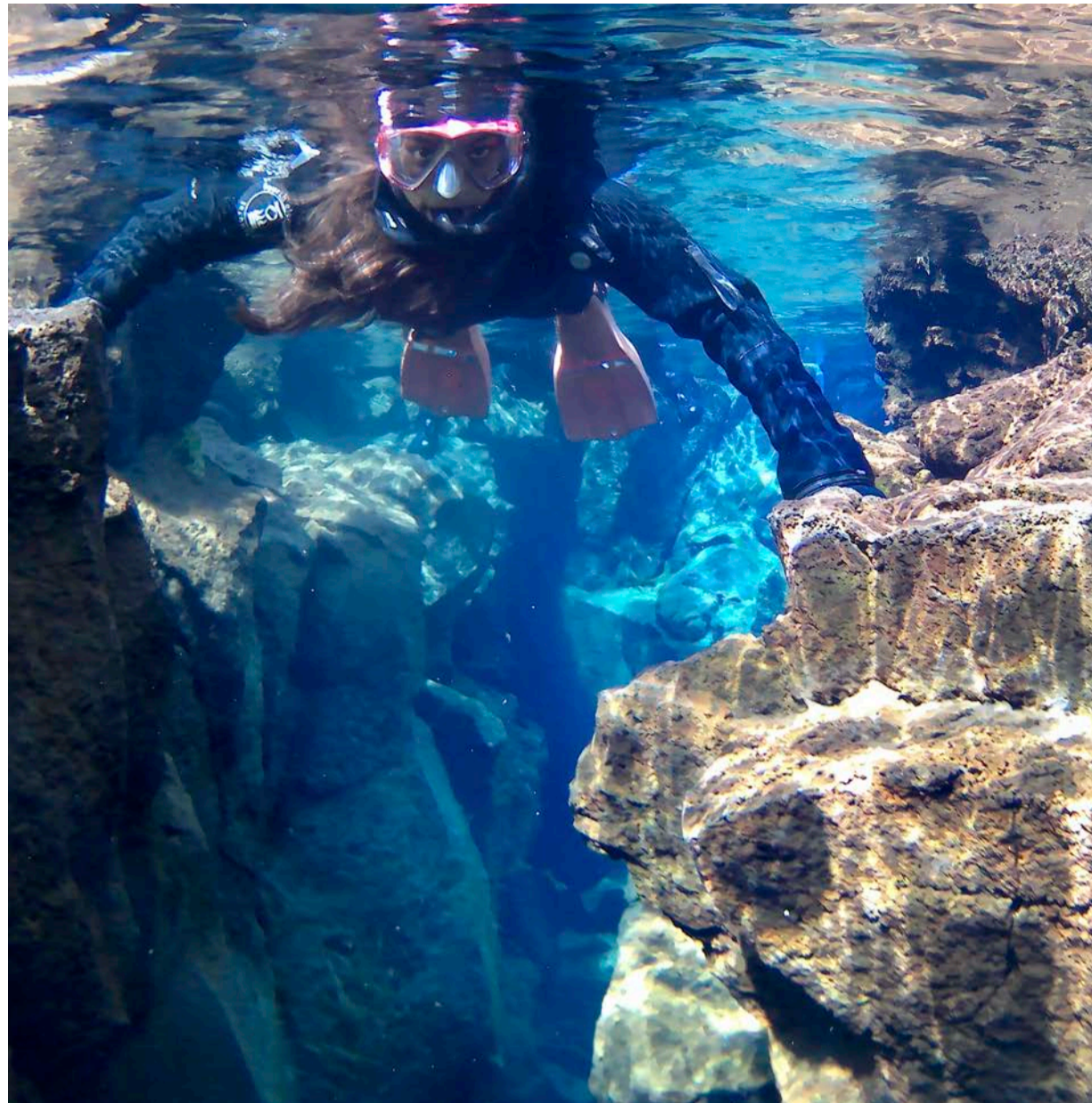


shop.grapevine.is
shop.grapevine.is
shop.grapevine.is
shop.grapevine.is
shop.grapevine.is
shop.grapevine.is*

Don't Hesitate!
Act Now!



*You only need to type the URL in once



We Tried It

Outer Space or Outside Reykjavík?

A snorkeller's journey to the Silfra fissure

WORDS Mira Haldar
IMAGE Provided by Arctic Adventures

Tour provided by Arctic Adventures - adventures.is

cred Alþingi (Icelandic parliament) convened as far back as 930, there's something else that draws travellers to Silfra – snorkelling.

Nestled beside Þingvallavatn and between the famous divide of the

waters attract experienced divers and the snorkel-curious from around the world. As an aficionado of snorkelling and a lover for anything in the water, I was eager to explore Silfra with Arctic Adventures.

My body began to warm and I suddenly felt grateful for the abundant layers of suits that seemed excessive in the nearly 20° afternoon sun.

Despite its dark history as the place where Icelanders drowned women during witch hunts, and upon the grounds where the sa-

North American and Eurasian continental plates, the Silfra fissure has become known for containing the clearest water in the world. With visibility up to 150 metres, the glacial

Upon my arrival, I was greeted by lively music and energetic tour guides, Bar and Marcin, who began my check-in and medical clearance briefing. Next, I was fitted for

Root for safety

Scan the QR code to donate to our volunteers of The Icelandic Search and Rescue teams.

For every donation, we plant a tree on your behalf in a collaboration with The Icelandic Forestry Association.



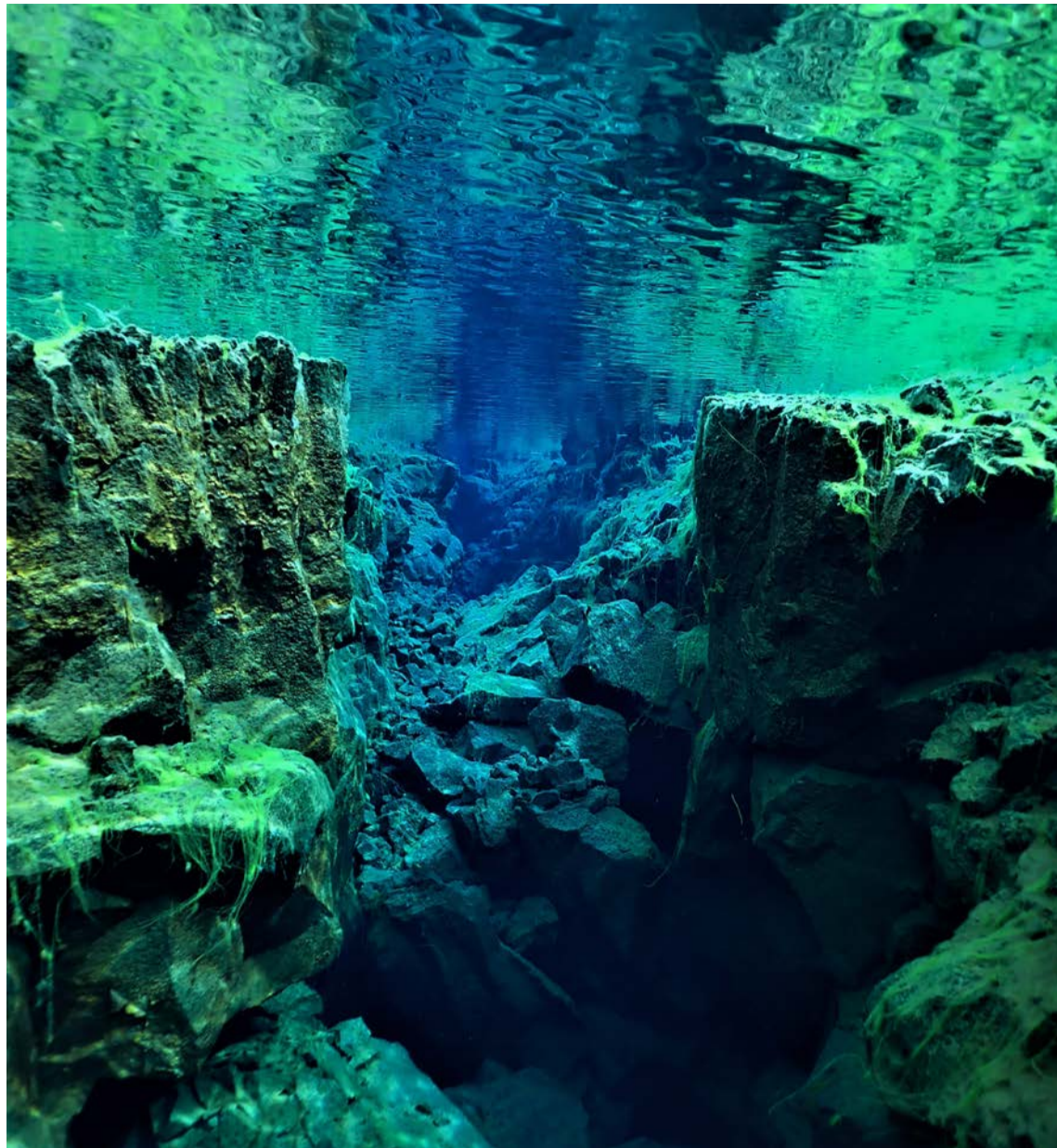
→ icesar.com



ICESAR
SEARCH & RESCUE



ICELANDIC FORESTRY
ASSOCIATION



my snorkelling attire which, this far north, consists of not one, not two, but three layers of gear. On top of my thermal layer – my classic black leggings and T-shirt combo, of course – I squeezed into my wetsuit, which retained the majority of my body heat during the dive. Finally, and an even tighter squeeze, was my dry suit, which also includes rubber boots, latex seals for my wrists and neck and, most importantly, a three-millimetre thick neoprene bodysuit.

Suited, booted and briefed on the day's snorkelling route, we walked across the street to the entrance of the dive site.

I was immediately in awe of the water. Melted directly from Langjökull glacier and filtering through lava for up to 200 years, words could

not express the level of clarity I saw before me. Standing on the dive platform, I was fitted with the final pieces of gear – gloves, a hood, fins, and a snorkel – and began the polar plunge into the mesmerising blue abyss. The initial bite of the 4° glacial water sent a shock through my veins, but around 40 seconds later, a numbing sensation overtook the sting. My body began to warm and I suddenly felt grateful for the abundant layers of suits that seemed excessive in the nearly 20° afternoon sun. As I began to float, carried by the ever so gentle current of the fissure, I opened my eyes and peered at the world that lay below my fins.

It felt like I was in outer space; and it wasn't just the buoyancy of my dry-suit creating a "zero-gravity" floating sensation. I was virtually flying. Electric green algae brushed across

the jagged edges of each cliff and crevice, while what appeared to be strings of white cobweb (which Marcin later told me was biofilm) created tiny debris-floating through

ears creating complete silence. I truly understood why the experience has been likened to liquid meditation. With one gentle kick of my fins, I glided across the surface, as

I was immediately in awe of the water. Melted directly from Langjökull glacier and filtering through lava for up to 200 years, words could not express the level of clarity I saw before me.

the crystal clear water, like stars in the night sky. The frigid water trickled through my hair and into my

my eyes traced the 30 metre deep canyon below.

The tour itself lasted around 45 minutes and covered the terrain of the deepest part of the fissure to a white sandy area which Marcin called the "sandy beaches of the Bahamas." We were given around 10 minutes to explore the cove for ourselves, which I enjoyed by floating past the entrance to Baby Silfra, a perpendicular fissure created by a 2008 earthquake.

Finally, after begrudgingly exiting the crystal water, I trekked 100 metres back to my arrival spot and was delighted to be handed a cup of hot chocolate to complete the journey.

The entire experience was truly otherworldly. Whether you're an avid swimmer or simply desire the relaxation of a natural lazy-river, snorkelling in Silfra is a surreal experience that you won't regret. ■

GLJÚFRASTEINN
Hús skáldsins
www.gljufasteinn.is



Laxness Museum Gljúfrasteinn

Laxness Museum was the home and workplace of Nobel Prize awarded Icelandic writer Halldór Laxness.

Only 20 min. from Reykjavík on the way to Þingvellir National Park.

Open every day 10:00–17:00.
Concerts every Sunday at 16:00

JULY 19TH – 23RD 2023
AKRANES
www.icedocs.is

Iceland Documentary Film Festival



Travel Feature **A Rollercoaster Of Absurdity, Tragedy, Joy**

Ragnar Kjartansson's retrospective Epic Waste of Love and Understanding hits Denmark's Louisiana Museum

WORDS Árni Hjörvar
IMAGES Elisabet Davids & Poul Buchard

The fact that Denmark's biggest contemporary art museum is currently hosting a retrospective exhibition of artist Ragnar Kjartansson is simultaneously mind-boggling and almost incredibly banal. On one hand, this is Ragnar Kjartansson, or as he was known back in the day, Rassi Prump (Assy Fartson): the sleazy frontman of a silly naughties pop band Trabant where he came across

as a half-naked hipster David Brent. The band were great, sure, but that the lead singer would later be described as one of the "most exciting and significant voices of contemporary art" would have sounded insane just a handful of years ago. At the same time, that statement almost feels like old news by now.

ENTER THE PALACE OF RAGGI KJARTANS

Ragnar's stature on the international stage has been rapidly growing since he became Iceland's youngest representative at the Venice Biennale in 2009. Ragnar's performance at the Biennale, "The End (Venice)" consisted of a tableau where Ragnar painted a picture a day for six

months of his friend and fellow artist Páll Haukur Björnsson, who wore a swimsuit and drank beer all day. The endurance, absurdity and chaos at the core of "The End" are all prevalent elements in the artworks that have since shot Ragnar to international acclaim, not least through "The Visitors" – an hour-long video installation which, in 2019, *The Guardian* named the best art of the 21st century. Ragnar is a superstar more than deserving of a retrospective at Louisiana.

And what an exhibition. First of all, it's huge. Louisiana has been transformed into the palace of Raggi Kjartans. The main entrance of the museum is a visitor's first hint of what lays inside, as it's almost

entirely blocked by a palatial column engraved with the exhibition's title, "EPIC WASTE OF LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING." Second, it's the most emotional experience I've ever had at an art exhibition, but to explain why, you'll need to allow a little sidenote for context.

A SELF-DEPRECATING JOKE

I'd spent the evening prior to my Louisiana visit exploring the Nørrebro bar scene with an uncle of mine. My head and heart were, therefore, a touch more tender than they'd otherwise be. In addition, the quality of our barhop conversations had understandably deteriorated with each hop. At some point, the topic

Visit the World's Only Beluga Whale and Puffin Sanctuary!

SEA LIFE TRUST
Beluga Whale Sanctuary

belugasanctuary.sealifetrust.org

Book Online & Save!



of Ragnar's exhibition came up and I found myself arguing the embarrassingly pretentious point that Louisiana did not score on the top ten list of European modern art museums. It's a ridiculous hill to die on and a testament to the deeply embedded minority complex that has afflicted Icelanders for hundreds of years at the mere mention of Denmark. At this point, my family and I had been in Denmark for a couple of weeks and it appeared this hereditary tick was reaching a critical stage when I finally made my way to the exhibition.

Louisiana, as a building, does nothing to help that feeling of insignificance. As unassuming as the entrance is, even as it's blocked by Ragnar's monolithic column, it unveils an absolute marvel of mid-century modernism as you step inside. It's sprawling and breathtaking, yet so stereotypically Danish that it feels like a self-deprecating joke. Mind you, it's quite an effortless joke, as it never feels like Louisiana is trying to be anything other than it is. It's just unavoidable and self-evident and, as such, quite a good analogue for Ragnar's art. Anyway, on to the exhibition.

A SINISTER MOTHER-SON RITUAL

The first video installation that greets guests as they enter the main exhibition hall, "Mercy" is an endless loop of Ragnar strumming the guitar and singing the lyric, "Oh why do I keep hurting you?" At first glance, it's a fairly inconsequential piece in the

catalogue of Ragnar's installations, but I stared transfixed for a few minutes until I noticed that my two-year-old daughter, as hypnotised by the piece as I was, had started duetting with him. The exhibition was instantly given a totally new meaning as I was suddenly seeing it through the eyes of a toddler and there's simply no better way to experience Ragnar's art than with childlike curiosity.

The more sinister "Me and My Mother" was next up. An installation consisting of five screens each playing a video, taken at five-year intervals, in which Ragnar's mother spits on him repeatedly and for what feels like forever. It's so ridiculous and saturated in tragicomedy that it verges on being pretentious, but the fact that I was there with my own family, watching a mother-son ritual that will only be repeated a few more times before either of them passes, filled me with such unbearable grief. In order to keep my cool I picked up my two-year-old and hurried to the other side of the hall where I dried my tears as I pretended to be critically evaluating one of the 144 paintings produced during the aforementioned 2009 performance "The End." I was ten minutes into the exhibition and it had already given me uncontrollable goosebumps, made me laugh like an idiot and now I was crying in front of a painting of a drunk guy in a swimsuit. Great.

A UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION

I regained a modicum of composure when I realised the ridiculousness of

showing "Stúka Hitlers" in an international museum. It's the ruins of a loge made for Hitler in 1941 below a marble slab with the inscription, "Ég hringdi í Helga Björns og hann útvegaði mér stúku Hitlers" (I called Helga Björns and he provided me with Hitler's booth). The absurdity of the statement is greatly amplified if the audience has an opinion of local Icelandic popstar Helgi Björns. Don't worry if you don't know who he is, I won't bother explaining. But if you do, there's nothing to explain.

Thankfully, the rest of the exhibition feels pretty universal and doesn't rely on the audience having any background information or context. It's primal and hypnotic, a roller-coaster of absurdity, tragedy and profound joy.

"Bliss," where opera singers perform the last three minutes of Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro" live, continuously and on repeat for 12 hours (which n.b. exceeds the opening hours at Louisiana); as well as Ragnar's seminal piece "The Visitors."

THE ICELANDIC INFERIORITY COMPLEX

The exhibition is nothing short of triumphant. It's a visual representation of the second law of thermodynamics had thermodynamics been discovered during late-night art school parties.

Ragnar's art is collaborative in the sense that it represents a whole generation of Icelandic artists and, regardless of the setting, it encapsulates a certain Icelandic psyche.

Whether his paintings are created in Venice and exhibited at Louisiana, or whether his art is performed by rock bands, orchestras and opera singers, it all feels like it comes from an after-party at an industrial estate in Grandi. Where artists huddle up and smoke cigarettes for warmth while a damp ocean storm tries its hardest to extinguish their cigarettes and any lingering optimism for the future. Sometimes the only way out is to just have some fun.

On the way back to the city, emotionally exhausted and with two sleeping children in the backseats of the car, my girlfriend shared a similar impression of the experience. She described Louisiana as having made her feel small and insignificant as a Scandinavian. "We're all just *torfkofafólön* (mud hut idiots)," she said referring to Iceland's standing in the Scandinavian hierarchy. "We don't stand a chance against our bigger siblings in Scandinavia and have no business trying," she said.

We don't stand a chance against our bigger siblings in Scandinavia and have no business trying. We have a genetic inferiority complex that seeps into the everyday details of Icelandic culture.

All of Ragnar's main video installations are here: "A lot of Sorrow," where rock gods The National play their single "Sorrow" live, continuously and on repeat for six hours;

Whether his paintings are created in Venice and exhibited at Louisiana, or whether his art is performed by rock bands, orchestras and opera singers, it all feels like it comes from an

We have a genetic inferiority complex that seeps into the everyday details of Icelandic culture. How we celebrate holidays, Christmas, birthdays and so on. All the intricate yet incredibly ugly embroidery, the impeccable sugar bowls, this tendency to keep everything ceremonial without extravagance. We inherit these little aspects of our culture that are all there in order to impress the Danish. On the other hand, it feels like we're appropriating culture. Like we've borrowed everything we associate with Iceland. In reality, though, all we have is nature and foolishness. Our culture consists of wind, hardship and foolishness. And that's the glory of this exhibition, it's a celebration of the *torfkofafólön*s. ■



Map posters available at www.mapsofice.land.shop and Kofi gallerí in Reykjavík centre



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

Sumac Grill + Drinks | tripadvisor | Sumacgrilldrinks



Food Feature

Regional Ambitions

Hits and misses at Gandhi Indian Restaurant and Bar

WORDS Shruthi Basappa
IMAGES Art Bicnick

NEW AVATAR

When many restaurants were closing around the pandemic, places like Gandhi with a stronger local clientele survived. Beyond that, Gandhi made a sound decision to move into a more visible, spacious location at Bergstaðastræti, with an expanded bar programme.

Popular restaurant interior designers HAF Studio were roped in for the overhaul and the result is a warm, semi-industrial space, with plush curtains, tan booths and a beautifully designed bar. The conscious choices to steer away from stereotypical notions of "Indian" restaurant design works mostly successfully – for a country with a rich heritage of hand-craft, fabrics, and both traditional and modern art work, the cheap generic printed paisley mounted on the walls feels out of place. Overall however, the new location is efficiently geared towards gatherings big and small, with multiple seating choices; the lower level with its street glazed corner is especially suited for raucous group gatherings with a good dose of people-watching.

The restaurant has also expanded its moniker to Gandhi – Indian Restaurant and Bar. And they put that bar to good use. On a recent occasion, encouraged by our enthusiastic server, I enjoyed a rose scented, floral number, poetically named "Mahal Maharani" or palace queen. At just 2490 ISK (yes just, as you'd be hard pressed to find a cocktail in this city

under 3000 ISK), you are handed a deep fuschia hued potion, with floating dried rose petals, their heady scent making their presence known, even before you've taken a sip. Sweetened with lychee and spritzed with rose flower extract, this made for a delightful prelude to our meal.

For teetotalers, the small selection runs beyond the usual suspects, and one can also request specific drinks. Growing up in India, it was commonplace to get a sweet or salty lime soda at restaurants, a sparkling, refreshing drink made with fresh lime juice, sweetened with sugar, taken over to the savory edge with a wee bit of salt and topped with bubbly soda. Gandhi's version with roasted cumin Jeera Nimbu Paani (1290 ISK) is as enjoyable as the ones I grew up with.

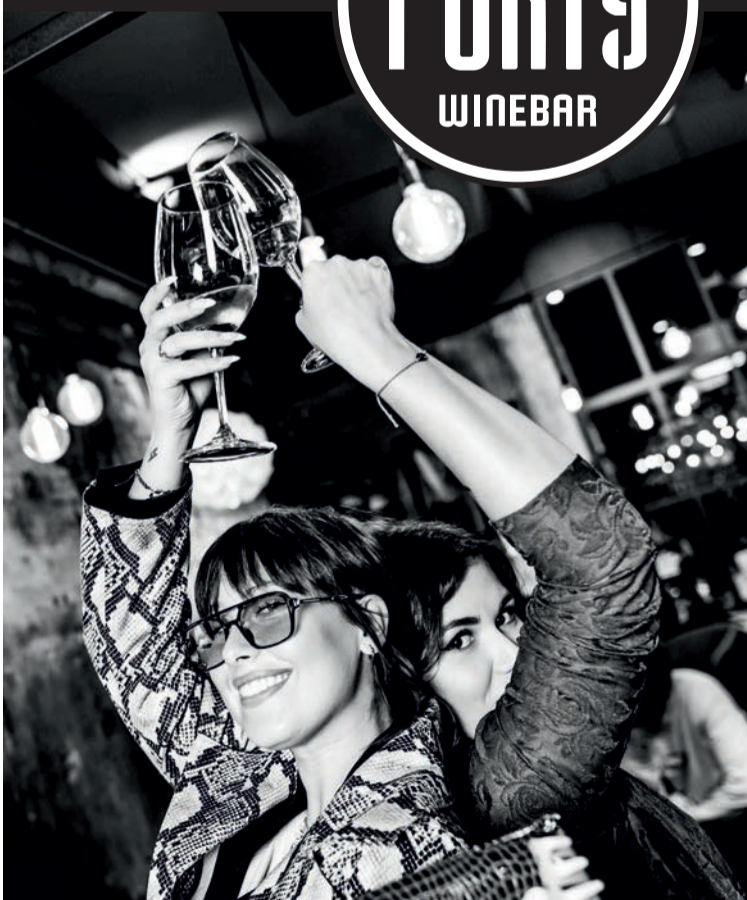
OLD CLICHÉS

For a brief moment last year, Gandhi offered what was at the time, the only Indian brunch, and a bottomless version at that. Sadly, it was a short-lived affair and from their marketing pictures, the food looked like it was striving for a menu with dishes rarely seen outside India – masala papad with cashew nuts, proper Punjabi looking samosas and biryani.

So it was with great expectation that I visited and revisited their new outpost since their opening. A precursory read over the menu reveals a North Indian menu studded with formulaic restaurant offerings like

The last time I reviewed Gandhi was in 2015. Back then they were tucked away in a basement overlooking Austurvöllur and I wrote about what a lost opportunity it was that they weren't tapping into their potential by focussing on the strength of the kitchen – Kerala cuisine, instead of the trap of crowd pleasers.

For a small city, Reykjavík boasts of quite a selection of world cuisines, with cuisines from Asia, particularly South and South-East Asia being most popular. One could say that given the healthy competition, restaurants would be scrambling to make themselves stand out from the crowd. Especially given that Icelanders aren't strangers to Indian cuisine – the oldest Indian restaurant turns 30 years old next year; it is particularly vexing that menus don't go beyond clichés like butter chicken.



VEGHÚSASTÍGUR 9A
Open Tuesday - Sunday
16:00 - 23:00



lovethaifood
LOVE BANTHAI RESTAURANT

BEST THAI FOOD 2022

2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 AND 2009,

Best goddamn restaurant 2011

TOP TEN : BEST RESTAURANTS IN ICELAND

DV. 17.06.11

Large selection of vegetable dishes



bant hai

www.banthai.is

Laugavegur 130, Hlemmur, 105 Reykjavík

PHONE : 5522-444, 692-0564 banthai130@gmail.com





Paneer Tikka Masala, Butter Chicken, with a Goan dish here (Kombdi Xacuti) and a Kerala dish there (Alleppey Chemmeen Curry). The restaurant has also shared videos of dosas being prepared, but they are nowhere to be found on the menu. Instead, breads are limited to naan and tandoori roti.

The Tandoori section has also grown since 2015, and now boasts of several chicken and meat dishes. Mutton Barrah Kebab is a popular grilled lamb kebab, originating somewhere along the Grand Trunk Road. Steeped with history, this particular kebab is usually considered a sign of an experienced kebabchi who understands the delicate dance between the robust spicing of the marinade, to the selection of the meat and the piece-de resistance, the actual controlled cooking of the lamb chop.

The Barrah Chaamp (5490 ISK) at Gandhi, is a somewhat pale imitation of the original. The plating itself is a mishmash of India by way of Iceland, with completely unnecessary boiled potatoes tossed in a masala, nestling beside a chopped salad traced with a sweet-chilliesque sauce.

Perhaps this is intended for people to eat this dish as they would Icelandic-style lamb – meat, potatoes, sauce and a salad. But kebabs are either had as a centerpiece of the meal with flatbreads and thinly sliced onions and lime to be squeezed over, or as an appetizer. The meat itself

is of a good quality and is cooked well, but the characteristic smoky char of a tandoori oven is amiss, as is the robust spicing, often redolent with pungent mustard oil. Grated raw papaya is almost always added as a tenderiser, helping cook the otherwise tough cut of meat. In lieu of tender lamb here, it is understandable if the kitchen excludes it, but the tinge of sweetness in the marinade while not off-putting, is certainly not traditional.

The rub with Gandhi lies in exactly that sticky spot where dishes are described as one, but arrive as something else altogether. The Old Delhi Butter Chicken (4490 ISK) refers to a very specific preparation of murg makhani, pointing to the OG rendition of this much maligned, much misrepresented but hopelessly popular dish. Pura delhi style murg makhani relies on the sweet and tart tomatoes doing the heavy lifting. Delicately spiced with maybe some cardamom and in utterly decadent versions, perhaps a strand of saffron, this dish is meant to be kissed with smoke thanks to the tandoori chicken. Buttery notes should come not just from the generous use of butter, but from crushed kasoori methi (crumbled, dried, fenugreek leaves) that are a signature taste of the dish. Here it arrives as a red looking “curry” with none of the nuance, delicacy or providence of the dish it claims to be.

GO REGIONAL, PLEASE

Things turn around with the Kerala dishes. The Alleppey Chemmeen Curry (4590 ISK) is true to its origins. Hailing from the picturesque backwaters of Alleppey from Kerala, a South Indian state often called “Country of the Gods.” This is a celebratory dish of land and sea. Cubes of raw mango (here slightly ripened, but hey, we are in Iceland) are cooked alongside hefty tiger prawns, in a ginger-garlic-shallot-tomato based sauce, lightened with coconut milk. Despite the missing curry leaves – essential really – it is a comforting dish, especially when eaten with plain steamed rice.

The Alu Paneer Koftha (4190 ISK) is another steadfast dish. Kofthas made with boiled potatoes, stuffed with crumbled paneer and spices, are gently fried, then tossed into a cashew nut based gravy. It's one of those dishes that time and again prove the popularity of Indian food. Creamy, rich, indulgent, this is ideally mopped up with a butter naan. Other dishes like the Palak Paneer (4190 ISK) are faithful renditions, as is the starter of Kanda Bhajiya (1990 ISK).

Gandhi boasts of chefs from India and experts at regional cuisine. My feelings from 2015 are borne out yet again. This time however, Gandhi doesn't need to look far and needs to catch up to the ambition and nowness of its own interiors, while listening, perhaps, to the strength of its kitchen, which lies in regional fare. Iceland has long been ready for it. ■

VINSTÚKAN
TÍU SOPAR

HAPPY HOUR

Every day from

17:00

GET TWO
FREE COURSES
WITH EVERY
BOTTLE OF WINE

19:00



22-23 JULY

STREET FOOD FESTIVAL

VIKING | Coca-Cola | Hljómskálagarður | Vodafone

EUROPEAN STREET FOOD AWARDS ICELAND



Food For Thought

How Does One Lose One's Dignity?

On the lack of gastronomic walkability in Reykjavik

WORDS Jóhannes Bjarkason
IMAGE Art Bicnick

A mild fascination of mine is the increased walkability of urban spaces. As Reykjavik grows, it appears to be a thing decision makers are working on, even though it remains a very car-dependent city.

A major fascination of mine, meanwhile, is the increased gastronomic walkability of Reykjavik, a term I invented solely for the purposes of this article. If you hadn't noticed, let me tell you: this town ain't no good for eaters on the go.

Opposed to significant metropolises like London and New York – cities the average Reykvikur will gladly compare themselves to – it's simply not possible to eat and walk simultaneously in Reykjavik while maintaining one's dignity.

The reason is simple. Reykjavik does not have a history of people having to eat on the go. It lacks the urgency of other major cities. The act isn't

woven into the city's concrete fabric, as opposed to walking around New York with a pizza slice in your hand – an act so naturally ingrained into New York streets that doing anything else seems to contradict the social contract. It's cool. It's natural. In Reykjavik, it's not.

TANKING MY SELF-RESPECT

As an experiment, I decided to grab a veggie langloka – a sort of a poor man's sub – from Bónus on Laugavegur before heading over to Grapevine HQ in Grófin. Layered with hard-boiled eggs, mushy vegetables and smothered in a sinnepsósa – a sauce only described as a lovechild of mayo, crème-fra-

iche and mustard – the langloka serves as the perfect variable for an experiment such as this. Hand-held, slightly sloppy, a commoner's delicacy.

Things started out well. I contained the sandwich in its plastic wrapper to minimise spillage. This was a false start, though, as after having given it a few chomps, I felt the cold and oily texture of the mustard sauce on my cheeks, climbing towards my ears.

This was no good. I felt people starting to look at me as I passed them. I was a freak in their eyes. Passing the intersection of Laugavegur and Skólavörðustígur, I saw a guy I knew from high school. He thinks I'm a weirdo. As the sauce spilt over my

face, I realised in a panic that I had no napkins, resorting to the absorbance of my own sleeves. "I'm disgusting," I thought to myself.

Having thought I'd cleaned everything off, I could still feel the stabbing glances of fellow pedestrians, none of whom were eating as they walked past the storefronts. When I reached the refuge of my workplace, a co-worker of mine commented, "You've got something," as they pointed towards the corner of their mouth.

My efforts: futile. My reputation: in shambles. My experiment proved worthwhile. You cannot eat, walk and maintain your dignity at the same time. ■

Appy Listings

Some Of The Happiest Hours In Town

If your bar has a happy hour, email us on events@grapevine.is with the details.

101 HOTEL

Wednesday to Saturday from 16:00 to 19:00

Beer 1390 ISK, Wine 1590 ISK
12 TÓNAR

Every day from 14:00 to 19:00

Beer 1100 ISK, Wine 1200 ISK
AMERICAN BAR

Every day from 16:00 to 19:00

Beer 900 ISK, Wine 1000 ISK
APÉRO

Every day from 16:00 to 19:00

Beer 950 ISK, Wine 1100 ISK
BÍÓ PARADÍS

Every day from 17:00 to 19:00

Beer 850 ISK, Wine 850 ISK
BJÓRGARÐURINN

Every day from 15:00 to 19:00

Beer 900 ISK, Wine 900 ISK
BODEGA

Every day from 16:00 to 19:00

Beer 900 ISK, Wine 900 ISK
BRAVÓ

Every day from 12:00 to 20:00

Beer 750 ISK, Wine 1000 ISK
BREWDOG

Wed-Sun from 14:00 to 17:00

Beer 990 ISK, Wine 990 ISK
BRÚT BAR

Every day from 16:00 to 19:00

Beer 700 ISK, Wine 750 ISK, 2F1 on wine and beer on tap

DEN DANSKE KRO

Every day from 16:00 to 19:00

Beer 750 ISK, Wine 750 ISK
FJALLKONAN

Every day from 15:00 to 18:00

Beer 990 ISK, Wine 1190 ISK
FORRÉTTABARINN

Every day from 16:00 to 18:00

Beer 800 ISK, Wine 900 ISK
FORSETINN

Every day from 15:00 to 18:00

Beer 990 ISK, Wine 990 ISK
FRÖKEN REYKJAVÍK

Every day from 16:00 to 18:00

Beer 990 ISK, Wine 1100 ISK
GAUKURINN

Every day from 16:00 to 21:00

Beer 900 ISK, Wine 1100 ISK
HOTEL HOLT BAR

Wednesday to Saturday from 16:00 to 18:00

Beer 1000 ISK, Wine 1350 ISK

THE IRISHMAN

Every day from 12:00 to 19:00

Beer 850 ISK, Wine 850 ISK
JÖRGENSEN KITCHEN & BAR

Every day except Thurs. 16:00 to 18:00, Thursday 16:00 to 20:00

Beer 890 ISK, Wine 1100 ISK
JUNGLE COCKTAIL BAR

Every day from 16:00 to 18:00

Beer 1000 ISK, Wine 1100 ISK
KAFFI LÆKUR

Every day from 16:00 to 18:00

Beer 1000 ISK, Wine 1000 ISK
KAFFIBARINN

Every day from 15:00 to 19:00

Beer 800 ISK, Wine 900 ISK
KAFFIBRENNSLAN

Every day from 16:00 to 20:00

Beer 850 ISK, Wine 900 ISK
KALDI BAR

Every day from 16:00 to 19:00

Beer 950 ISK, Wine 950 ISK
LOFT HOSTEL

Every day from 16:00 to 20:00

Beer 860 ISK, Wine 950 ISK
LÓLA FLÓRENS

Every day from 15:00 to 18:00

Beer 1200 ISK, Wine 1200 ISK
ÖLSTOFAN

Every day from 15:00 to 20:00

Beer 1000 ISK, Wine 1000 ISK
PETERSEN SVÍTAN

Every day from 16:00 to 19:00

Beer 900 ISK, Wine 1200 ISK
PRIKIÐ

Every day from 16:00 to 20:00

Beer 700 ISK, Wine 1000 ISK
PUNK

Every day from 16:00 to 18:00

Beer 850 ISK, Wine 950 ISK
RÖNTGEN

Every day from 16:00 to 19:00

Beer 900 ISK, Wine 1000 ISK
SÆTA SVINIÐ

Every day from 15:00 to 18:00

Beer 990 ISK, Wine 1190 ISK
SATT RESTAURANT

Every day from 15:00 to 18:00

Beer 900 ISK, Wine 1000 ISK
SKÚLI CRAFT BAR

Every day from 12:00 to 19:00

Beer 900 ISK, Wine 900 ISK
SLIPPARINN

Every day from 15:00 to 18:00

Beer 1000 ISK, Wine 1000 ISK
SPILAKAFFI

Every day from 17:00 to 19:00

Beer 1000 ISK, no wine or cocktails
STÚDENTAKJALLARINN

Every day from 16:00 to 19:00

Beer 710 ISK, Wine 850 ISK
TIPSÝ

Every day from 16:00 to 19:00

50% off select cocktails

UPPSALIR BAR

Every day from 16:00 to 19:00

Beer 750 ISK, Wine 950 ISK
VEÐUR

Every day from 12:00 to 19:35

Beer 800 ISK, Wine 800 ISK
VÍNSTÚKAN TÍU SÓPAR

Every day from 17:00 to 19:00

Beer 1300 ISK, Wine 1600 ISK
VOX BRASSERIE & BAR

Every day from 16:00 to 18:00

Beer 900 ISK, Wine 1200 ISK



Featured Petersen Svítan

Ingólfsstræti 2a

At the time of writing this, Reykjavík is finally seeing some warm and sunny days! And where's the best place to have a drink when those days arrive? On a rooftop, of course! At this swanky-casual bar located above Gamla Bíó, you get an ultra stunning view of the city with your well priced drinks. It's the perfect place to soak up the sun, surrounded by your fellow hotties.

Happy hours

Every day from 16:00 to 19:00

Beer 900 ISK, Wine 1200 ISK. ■

Cheap Eats

Here are some sweet meal deals that'll fill your tummy and without draining your bank account.

101 STREET FOOD

All day, every day

All appetizers & main courses: 2.050 ISK.

APÓTEK

All day, every day

Soup of the Day: 1.990 ISK.

BÆJARINS BEZTU

All day, every day

Hotdog and soda: 990 ISK.

BRÚT

On Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Bottomless Brunch, including selected drinks: 6.900 ISK.

DEIG

On weekdays after 10:00

Poor Man's Offer: filled bagel, doughnut & drink: 1.850 ISK.

DOMINO'S

Tuesday, pick-up only

Tuesday Special: medium pizza with three toppings: 1.200 ISK all day on.

DRAGON DIM SUM

Every day, except Sunday, from 11:30-14:30

Choice of any two dumpling baskets: 2.190 ISK.

GLÓ

All day, every day

Bowl of the Month: 2.290 ISK.

HAMBORGARABÚLLA TÓMASAR

All day on Tuesday

Tuesday Special: burger, fries & soda: 1.790 ISK.

HLÖLLABÁTAR

Every day until 14:00

Lunch Offer: Choice of any sub and soda: 1.995 ISK.

ÍSLENSKI BARINN

All day, every day

Soup of the Day: 1.650 ISK.

LEMON

All day, every day

Combo of the Month: large sandwich & juice: 2.195 ISK.

MAI THAI BISTRO

Every day from 11:00-14:00

Lunch of the Day: 1.890 ISK.

NOODLE STATION

All day, every day

Vegetarian noodle soup: 1.290 ISK.

PIZZAN

All day, every day

Combo Pick-up Offer: choice of menu pizza & breadsticks: 50% off.

PHO VIETNAMESE

All day, every day

Pho & wonton soups: 1.890 ISK.

REYKJAVÍK ROASTERS

All day, every day

Breakfast menu & sourdough toasts (various toppings): 580-1.350 ISK.

SHALIMAR

Weekdays from 12:00-15:00

Curry in a Hurry Lunch Special: 1.590 ISK.

SHANGHAI

All day, every day

Choice of 3-dish combo: 2.290 ISK for one; 4.390 ISK for two.

SUBWAY

All day, every day

Sub of the Day: 1.399 ISK for 6"; 1.899 for 12".

ZORBIAN HOT

All day, every day

Chicken shawarma wraps & falafel wraps: 1.490 ISK.

THE PUFFIN BLANKET

100% WOOL

www.islensk.is

◆ ISLENSK.IS

Retailers are Gullfosskaffi, Rammagerðin and many others

You can pick up your copy of **The Reykjavík Grapevine** in Krónan all around Iceland!

KRÓNAN

JUNKYARD PREMIUM CLUB MEMBERSHIP

SUPPORT US! REACH NEW LEVELS MASSIVE DISCOUNTS

SCAN ME

Try the most advanced burgers in Iceland at Junkyard - The best junk in town. Find us at the corner of Kleppsvegur & Langhellsvegur



Alternate Reality

What If There Had Been No Economic Collapse?

Another alternative history thought exercise to wrap your head around

WORDS Valur Gunnarsson
IMAGE Art Bicnick

What possessed early 21st century Icelanders to believe their country was ideally suited to becoming the banking capital of the world? After all, banking had only been conducted here for just over 100 years and much of the intervening period had been plagued by high inflation and regular devaluation of our fluctuating microcurrency. Yet, by the early 2000s, Icelanders decided they would be the best in the world at managing money.

In 1991, Davíð Oddsson, former mayor of Reykjavik and now head of the Independence Party, became Prime Minister in a coalition government with the Social Democrats. During his first tenure, Iceland joined the European Economic Area while electing to stay out of the European

Union. After the 1995 election, Oddsson abandoned the Social Dems and formed a coalition with the Centre Party, which would last until 2007 and become known as the “Privatisation Government.” Ending state intervention was the order of the day and included selling off the public phone company and the banks.

The problems that the neo-liberals diagnosed were real. Iceland had long been in the throes of a corrupt system that distributed positions and perks to loyal party members, friends and family. The main beneficiaries were those tied to the Independence Party and the Centre Party, who habitually held the reins of government. Neo-liberalism was now to be the cure to all ills. Meanwhile, the left was put in the unenviable position of defending a system they had never really believed in to begin with. Unsure of what to do, most dissenting voices soon disappeared.

On October 6, 2008, Prime Minister Geir Haarde, successor to Oddsson, gave a televised address which ended with the words “God bless Iceland.” The speech was rather incoherent, but since deities are rarely summoned in Icelandic politics, we all knew we were in deep trouble.

The government now had to take over all three major banks, which had collapsed in the space of a

week. Each bank had managed to inflate their shares by investing in the other two. It also turned out that the Central Bank – chaired by Oddsson – was almost out of money following an ill-advised attempt to capitalise Kaupthing Bank. In addition, the government, municipalities and most private individuals were deep in debt. The events became known as the Icelandic Economic Collapse, or “Hrunið” for short.

MANAGING MONEY THE ICELANDIC WAY

How far back do we have to go in order to chart a new path that avoids the economic collapse all together? Was this still possible in the autumn of 2008 or earlier that year?

The alarm bells had actually started ringing in early 2006. The Icelandic banks, which had been growing exponentially in previous years, seemed to be having a cash flow issue. Something had to be done, and indeed something was. Downsizing, you say? Not at all! The banks were to continue to grow and in order to do just that two brilliant solutions were found.

One was Landsbankinn opening their now infamous Icesave accounts in Britain and the Netherlands. By offering very high interest rates, the bank lured people in both countries to deposit their savings

in Icelandic accounts and keep the money flowing. The other solution was the publication of “love letters,” as they were called, by the Central Bank, which in effect made sure that Icelandic taxpayers would be responsible for the well-being of the private banks. In February 2008, Kaupthing followed in Landsbankinn’s footsteps with their Kaupthing Edge saving accounts in Britain.

It seems clear that everything that was done in the two and a half years before the collapse served to heighten, rather than lessen, the risks. But to avert the collapse completely we would have to go farther back.

The most important decision made during Oddsson’s long tenure was the privatisation of the banks, which

How far back do we have to go in order to chart a new path that avoids the economic collapse all together?

This was some major Kaupthing. And yet that spring it was becoming increasingly clear the international financial system was in trouble.

There’s no doubt the blow could have been lessened had other decisions been made in 2006 or even early 2008. A downsizing of the banking sector could have taken place. As late as August and September 2008, authorities in Britain, the Netherlands and Sweden asked how Icelanders were going to guarantee savings accounts if a banking crisis were to occur. The answer given was that the money would be borrowed.

took place from 1999 to 2003. There were various proposals as to how this could best be done, for example by approaching foreign investors to bring in capital or selling stocks to the general public.

Oddsson had long been a spokesman for distributing ownership as much as possible to avoid everything falling into the hands of a few. In the end, such plans were abandoned and a majority share of Landsbankinn was given to the Samson group. This consisted of father-and-son team Björgólfur Guðmundsson and Björgólfur Thor, and their associate Magnús Þorsteins-son. The three men were flush with

EXPLORE UNSEEN ICELAND
ON THE ULTIMATE FLYING RIDE

FlyOver ICELAND

OPEN EVERY DAY | flyovericeland.com

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART
GARÐATORG 1
210 GARÐABÆR

PERMANENT EXHIBITION
HÖNNUNARSAFNIÐ SEM HEIMILI AT HOME IN THE DESIGN MUSEUM

THE PLATFORM
HABITATIONS
4TH GRADERS TAKE ON INTERIOR DESIGN 18.04.–03.09.

RESIDENCY
NÍNA GAUTADÓTTIR
TEXTILE ARTIST 07.07.–27.08.

EXHIBITION
PRESENCE NEW SWEATERS BY ÝRÚRARÍ 28.04.–27.08.

OPEN TUE–SUN 12–17
WWW.HONNUNARSAFN.IS

Instagram Facebook honnunarsafn

cash after founding a beer factory in Russia during the '90s and then selling it off to Heineken.

The trade minister at the time pointed out that the Samson group had no experience with banking and could hardly make the bank more competitive in the way that investment by a foreign bank might, but this was overruled. Economist Steingrímur Ari Arason, who was also an expert on the parliamentary committee discussing Samson's foray into banking, resigned his post and criticised the procedure. He later claimed that other interested investors had been ignored despite better offers by any conventional metric and that he "had never seen such methods before." Yet they were also applied to the privatisation of what would become Kaupthing.

Rather than privatising the banks in the originally proposed manner, the nepotism that had characterised old Iceland lived on and reached new heights. Only six years after the privatisation process was complete, all three major banks (also including Íslandsbanki, renamed Glitnir) had to be taken into administration by the authorities.

DAVID AS GOLIATH

Oddsson, who was not only Prime Minister from 1991 to 2004 but also Central Bank director from 2004 to 2009, was named one of the 25 architects of the economic collapse by Time Magazine in 2010. By the 1980s, neoliberalism was in the air and it would have found its champion in Iceland as most ideas do. But that this would turn out to be Oddsson was probably not inconsequential. The more established leaders of the Independence Party had a larger stake in the status quo and might not have seen it in their interest to upend the economy in quite the same way.

In 1983, Þorsteinn Pálsson became head of the Independence Party. He was to serve as Minister of Finance and then Prime Minister before losing an inner party election to Oddsson in 1991. Had he not, he would have gotten the job of forming a government with the Social Democrats that year instead of Oddsson. Both he and the leader of the Social Democrats, Jón Baldvin Hannibalsson, were known Europhiles.

Had they been together in government, Iceland would very probably have joined the European Union in 1995 along with Sweden, Finland and Austria.

Instead, with Oddsson in charge, a compromise was found whereby Iceland joined the European Economic Area along with Norway and Liechtenstein. This conferred some, but not all, rights and obligations of full EU membership.

The economist and former director of Landsbankinn Jónas H. Haralz later called the EEA agreement "a poisoned chalice," which opened up the possibility for Icelanders to set up businesses everywhere in the EU without the necessary supervision, a stable currency or a strong Central Bank.

This would enable the eventual economic collapse to reach the dimen-

bankinn (later Kaupthing). Perhaps both eventually become opposed to EU membership out of fear others might interfere in how the pie is split.

If we assume in this scenario that the Independence-Social Dems of government of 1991 would have been re-elected in 1995, privatisation would have proceeded more slowly. If we give this coalition one more win in 1999, Iceland might also have adopted the Euro, which would have become currency in 2002. The century-long struggle with an inherently unstable króna would have been over. Perhaps this in itself would have been enough to stave off the economic collapse. Some foreign experts had predicted that it would be hard to maintain "an overgrown banking system and terminally ill micro-currency," but in this alternate timeline we would have had neither. ■

Iceland had long been in the throes of a corrupt system that distributed positions and perks to loyal party members, friends and family. The main beneficiaries were those tied to the Independence Party and the Centre Party, who habitually held the reins of government.

sions that it did, but with a Pálsson administration, that cup would have passed us by in favour of joining the EU. With the Independence Party onboard, only Alþýðubandalagið, successor to the Socialist Party, would have opposed membership. The Centre Party at the time was rather pro-EU due to its support for farmers, though that stance has since changed.

The Independence Party and the Centre Party have for decades followed a 50-50 rule when it comes to distributing offices and this was adhered to in the privatisation process when the Independence Party got to pick who got Landsbankinn and the Centre Party who got Búnaðar-

Have you enjoyed Valur Gunnarsson's reimagining of historical events in the Grapevine? Then you'll love his new book, with each chapter offering an expanded in-depth exploration of how Iceland could be different today if key historical happenings hadn't played out the way they did.

What If Vikings Had Conquered the World? And Other Questions of Icelandic and Nordic History is out now through Salka Publishing. Get your copy at Shop.Grapevine.is.

And check out the Grapevine's Alternative History Of Iceland podcast for more hypothetical historical hijinks.

- 1 *Eden Blanket*, designed by Aníta Hirlekar. Made in Reykjavík from pure Icelandic wool.
- 2 *Arctic Blanket*, designed by Sigrún Halla Unnarsdóttir. Made in Reykjavík from pure Icelandic wool.



All things Icelandic in design and craft



Skólavörðustígur 7
Skólavörðustígur 12
Kringlan
Harpa
Flugstöð Leifs Eiríkssonar

**RAMM
AGER
DIN** *Ísland*
1940

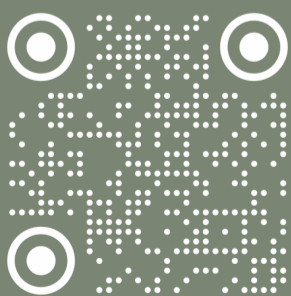


SKÝ
LOUNGE & BAR



TOP FLOOR BAR
WITH CITY CENTER
& SEA VIEW

Extended Happy
Hour in July
Daily from 4-8 pm



skyreykjavik.com

Ingólfsstræti 1 - 101 Reykjavík



The Neighbourhood Watch

Do Cacti Grow In Iceland?

Akureyri-based Kaktus Collective still goes strong

WORDS Jóhannes Bjarkason
IMAGES Torfi Þór Tryggvason

Iceland tells a persistent story of being home to a prolific art scene. It turns out, this story is very much close to being accurate, as you can find all sorts of galleries and art festivals seemingly operating at the edge of the world.

Akureyri is not a small town – at least not on an Icelandic scale. It is the major township of North Iceland, with a population just shy of twenty thousand people. Despite its perceived smallness, Akureyri boasts a flourishing arts scene, with its own art museum and everything.

FROM INCEPTION TO INITIATIVE

One of the players contributing to this blooming landscape is Kaktus, an art gallery and cultural collective

composed of Akureyri-based artists. Its establishment can be traced back to 2012, which Hekla Björt Helgadóttir, co-founder and current curator of the space, calls, “the golden age for young artists in Akureyri.” Most met in the Akureyri School of Visual Arts, and after graduation when the time had come to acquire working spaces, a bunch of them united in a single studio above the Akureyri Art Museum. Ultimately, the young artists needed to relocate. “The idea was to have our studios in the space and invite people in,” Hekla explains. Having averaged around two events every month, the number of happenings held in the space since 2015 is enormous.

Populated and driven forward by players such as Kaktus, the Akureyri art scene – much like its parallel in Reykjavík – is a tightly knit community. “Everybody is very connected and ready to help each other out. It’s a beautiful and warm scene,” says Hekla, explaining that Kaktus focuses its efforts on building a platform for the visual arts, in conjunction with hosting live music shows.

HARDSHIP AND PROSPERITY

Despite the apparent successes of the events and longevity of the group and space, Kaktus still faces the challenges of every independent art venue in Iceland – a lack of financial security. “We rely on grants to pay the rent. And we pay out of pocket,” Hekla says. In her opinion, Kaktus needs to be appropriated into the municipality’s cultural policy. “We would at least be in a better spot if the rent decreased,” she chimes.

Working in Kaktus’ favour is its popularity with locals and visitors to the area. “We’ve been received very well,” Hekla says. “People are actually purchasing art, which is great.”

Kaktus’ outreach even extends to Reykjavík, mostly because of Hekla’s initiative. “I’m actively trying to get people from the Reykjavík area to perform. I find it important to source art from elsewhere and introduce artists to Akureyri,” says Hekla, “And vice versa. To introduce local crowds to out-of-town artists,” she concludes.

DON’T STOP, WON’T STOP

Kaktus’ main goal is simple: to keep going, “Without running out of force and resources,” Hekla says. “It’s not on our schedule to shut down any time soon,” she says assuredly in reference to the newly formulated exhibition calendar of 2024.

Regarding the exhibitions, every year the collective dedicates one to two months of their space to male and female artists, respectively. Hekla says this is done to bring artists to the fore, although the thematic dichotomy might change later on. At the time of writing, Hekla and the Kaktus group are exhibiting “Fljóðamóðir” (Women’s Mother), a series of performances dedicated to female artists.

Kaktus is located in Kaupvangsstræti 8-12 in Akureyri, in what is colloquially referred to as the Listagilið (The Art Ravine) – its name derives from the abundance of art spaces operating on the same street. If you ever pass by Akureyri, go say hi and find out if cacti grow in Iceland. ■



Well, You Asked

Get It While It's Hot!

The Grapevine answers your most pressing questions

WORDS Catherine Magnúsdóttir
IMAGE Art Bicnick

that will blow your socks off! Get a little piece of Hell on Earth, sulfur and flame included! For the small price of one stable financial institution (plus one soul for tax purposes) you can enjoy the fiery depths of the eternal pit and the molten rock emerging from it to claim parts of the surface. Build your next lavish mansion in the comfort of a crater and enjoy the included in-floor heating along with the opportunity to keep trying out new floor designs! Get ahead of the housing crisis and be the first to know about the latest eruptions for all your social media needs! No refunds.

VOLCANO LAND FOR SALE?

Step right up! Step right up, ladies and gentlemen, for a one time offer

RANT THAT ICELANDER'S WOULD LOVE TO SEE COME TO ICELAND?

We seem to be chewing out chain restaurants and brand names as quickly as the fast food they try to sell. McDonald's has become an anecdote. Dunkin' Donuts is a faint memory. Was Papa John's ever even here? Iceland appears to have a short digestive tract when it comes to branded fast food. Not that we don't eat it. I mean, we take what's offered when it's here, but we also have no problem moving on and clogging our arteries at the next den of gluttony like the little flighty fast food flirts that we are. No strings attached, babyyy. ■

WHAT IS ONE INTERNATIONAL CHAIN RESTAU-

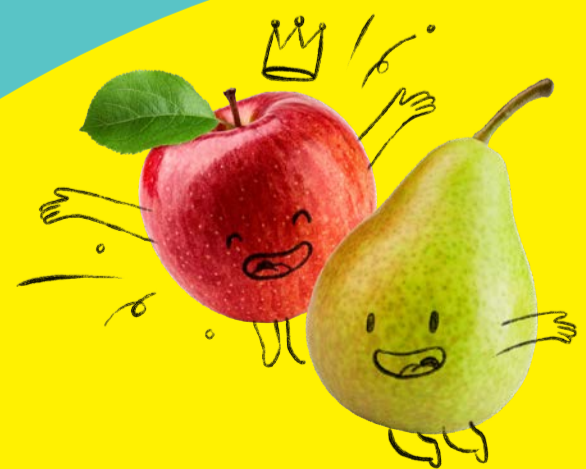


Last Look IMAGE Art Bicnick

26 stores across Reykjavík and Iceland

With fresh products and low prices!

View locations and opening hours at kronan.is



KRONAN



BOOK
NOW



www.GoCarRental.is
+354 551 1115

Last Words

Exotic Car

Reflections on the
immigrant experience

Words **il mestiere del corvo**

all my friends are exhausted
all the money gone
on shared sofas, like eider ducks
we left parts of ourselves
missed tons of events

i met giggling vikings,
giggling like seagulls,
living on a parallel island
where the sun is shining
opportunities are plenty
and happiness is just a state of mind

i was wondering if living in
a garage makes me
an exotic car

if mould is a national delicacy
would you take me out for my birthday
to taste it at Sumac?

like the Arctic tern, we learned
how to live far from our
old-fashioned architectures
from the landscapes we used to call home

don't feel surprised if we feel pain
watching you sacrifice your wild
for one more cruise
for another aurora tour

you - again! - into museums throw your
past
it's so sad to say goodbye to Sæmundarhlíð
only to hear more luggage wheels

what's all this fetish for towers of glass and
steel
while the raven still nests on
wood, grass and trash?

i miss Post-húsið and Háskólabíó
I will miss Húrra and Tjarnarbíó

how painful and boring this country is be-
coming! ■

One of 25 wonders of the world

Blue Lagoon Water is unlike any other
water in Iceland and on the planet.



Discover the water.
Experience the wonder.

Scan code and book now.

BLUE LAGOON
ICELAND



The Grapevine Presents:

Food Walk

Food enthusiasts and hungry travellers are given exclusive access to some of Reykjavík's celebrated restaurants and artisan producers, as curated by longtime food columnist Ragnar. He and his team of trusted foodies takes diners away from the usual haunts to celebrate the diversity of modern Icelandic food culture.

available at shop.grapevine.is