



TIPS FOR TRAVELERS

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SUGGESTED PACKING

Following are a few items we recommend you bring along on your trip to Iceland. This is a non-exhaustive list that focuses only on the most essential items. Please note that if you are going snowmobiling or ATV-ing, the outfitter will supply snowsuits.

- Water-proof hiking boots or shoes. Semi-stiff. Good ankle support. Sneakers are not sufficient.
- Warm socks (2-3 extra pairs)
- In summer: Rain pants and rain jacket (to use as an outer layer – it's often windy and rainy at the same time)
- In winter: warm winter parka and waterproof cover pants.
- Hiking pants (usually better than jeans when traveling outside of Reykjavik)
- Warm sweater (wool or fleece)
- Gloves and warm hat (year-round)
- Swimwear (geothermal pools!)
- Waterproof bag for your phone (if going bathing)
- Long thermal underwear (highly recommended in Winter and essential if snorkeling/diving as layer under dry suit)
- Casual clothes for Reykjavik and evenings
- Daypack (for camera, water, gloves, hat, etc.)
- Re-usable water bottle
- Camera
- Sunglasses
- Eye cover sleep mask during summer months. (Hotels have black-out curtains but it may still not be pitch-dark).

If you want to travel lightly, you can rent outdoor clothes from [Iceland Cover](#). They offer parkas, raincoats, boots, outdoor pants and more and can deliver to your hotel upon your arrival. Receive a 10% discount, by entering the code **Encounter** into the coupon code field at checkout.

WEATHER

The rule about Icelandic weather is that it is VERY changeable. The weather that you wake up to in the morning is probably not the weather you will have all day. Always be prepared for rain and wind, as well as sudden shifts in temperature.

In the Summer months (May to Sep) the temperature is typically between 40-60 F (10-15 C). In the Winter the temperature is typically between 25-40 F (-5 to 5 C). Visit the following Web page for information about current weather forecast: <http://en.vedur.is/weather/forecasts/areas/>

DAYLIGHT HOURS

There are big differences between winter and summer daylight hours. From May to August, you won't see much darkness. Conversely, in mid-winter, expect only about four to five hours of daylight each day. Spring and fall daylight hours are roughly the same as in Europe and North America.

For information about daylight hours, visit: <http://www.sunrise-and-sunset.com/en/iceland/reykjavik>

AURORA BOREALIS

The Aurora Borealis is a natural phenomenon, caused by an interaction of particles from a solar flare with the earth's atmosphere above the magnetic poles. These interactions cause bright dancing lights in the sky, also known as the Northern Lights in the northern hemisphere.

The best time to see the northern lights in Iceland is from September to mid-April. A viewing of these lights can never be guaranteed, it requires a big solar flare as well as a dark and cloudless sky.

For information about the Northern Light Forecast, visit: <http://en.vedur.is/weather/forecasts/aurora/>

TIPPING GUIDELINES

Here are suggested tipping guidelines for a guide in private tours:

Group size	Per person, per day
1-2 pax	\$40-\$60 (\$80-\$120 per day per couple)
3-6 pax (family)	\$30-\$40 (e.g. \$120-\$160 per day for a family of 4)
7-10 pax	\$25-\$30
11-20 pax	\$20-\$25

For other services, a service fee is usually included in the price. This applies to restaurants, taxis, room service, etc. Tipping is never expected, but of course always appreciated.

RESTAURANTS

Here are a few of our favorite fine dining restaurants in Reykjavik. We recommend that you reserve a table. Please let us know if you like us to help secure a reservation.

Fish Company

Vesturgata 2a, <http://www.fiskfelagid.is/en/>

Beautiful restaurant located in a historic building in the heart of Reykjavík. They offer a delicious around Iceland menu, where the chefs take the guests on a trip around the country, without them having to leave their tables.

Kopar Restaurant

Geirsgata 3, <http://www.koparrestaurant.is/en/home-2/>

An excellent restaurant located by the picturesque old harbor of Reykjavík. On the menu is a variety of dishes, where new methods and classic recipes converge, using traditional ingredients together with some surprising new ones.

Food Cellar

Adalstræti 2, <http://matarkjallarinn.is/en/>

Gourmet Icelandic brasserie-style food located in a historic building in the heart of Reykjavík. Their secret menu will take you to heaven and back!

Apotek Kitchen & Bar

Austurstæti 16, <https://apotekrestaurant.is/?lang=en>

An exciting restaurant located in one of the most beautiful corners of Reykjavík. The menu is a fun mix of Icelandic and European cuisine with a smoking hot Argentinean grill as well as a lively cocktail bar where award winning “pharmacists” mix together exciting artisan cocktails.

Kol Kitchen & Bar

Skolavordustigur 40, <https://kolrestaurant.is/en/>

An exciting restaurant located close to the Hallgrímskirkja Church. The chefs at Kol have put a twist on the classics and upscaling what might be called comfort food to a fine dining level, creating tasty dishes to satisfy a wide range of diners. They are also one of the leading bars in the rapidly growing Reykjavík craft cocktail scene.

Eiriksson Brasserie

Laugavegur 77, <https://brasserie.is/>

An excellent restaurant located in a building formerly owned by the Bank of Iceland. The menu at Eiriksson Brasserie has a European style with a special emphasis on Italian cooking. They have a great wine collection in the cellar, located in the old money vault, where you can find a collection of about 4.000 bottles.

Grillmarket

Laekjargata 2a, <http://www.grillmarkadurinn.is/en/>

One of the finest restaurants in Reykjavík, offering culinary delight straight from the local farmers. We highly recommend the Grillmarket tasting menu.

Tides at the Reykjavik EDITION

Austurbakki 2 <https://www.editionhotels.com/reykjavik/restaurants-and-bars/>

Tides is one of the newest fine dining options in Reykjavik. Located on the ground floor of the 5-star Reykjavik EDITION, it is headed by Michelin-starred chef Gunnar Karl Gíslason (who founded the famed Dill Restaurant) and offers a seafood-focused menu of modern Icelandic cuisine using fresh, local and seasonal ingredients.

Sumac Grill

Laugavegur 28 <http://sumac.is>

A lively modern brasserie with on-trend concrete walls, burnished leather banquettes and a charcoal grill. Icelandic ingredients are given a Middle Eastern twist, with influences ranging from North African to Lebanese. Cooking is rustic and full of flavor; go for the meze sharing menus.

Óx Restaurant

Laugavegur 28 <https://ox.restaurant/>

Find yourself back in time in an Icelandic kitchen, where you and 10 other adventurers will be seated around a chef table as he prepares your plates. A seat at ÓX costs ISK 32.500 per person. This price includes a full meal from the chef's table including wine pairings & Coffee/Tea

The dining experience is available at 19:15 Thursdays-Saturdays

Reservations can only be made online with a payment card.

No Show fee is 32,500 ISK per person.

Dill Restaurant

Laugavegur 59, <https://www.dillrestaurant.is/en/home/>

Nordic cooking with Icelandic ingredients and traditions.

An authentic Icelandic journey, one deeply rooted in our captivating culture. Dill was first restaurant in Iceland to be awarded a Michelin star. Open Wednesday-Saturday from 6:00 PM.

Reservations can only be made online with a payment card.

No Show fee is 11,900 ISK per person.

CASUAL DINING

Posthus Mathöll (Posthus Food Hall)

Posthusstræti 3-5, <https://www.posthusfoodhall.is/>

Excellent food hall in the center of town located in the grand old post office building. Selections include sushi, burgers, pizza, cocktail bars, bistro food and more.

Hafnartorg Food Hall

Hafnartorg, <https://www.hafnartorggallery.is/en/restaurants>

Upscale food hall located next to the EDITION hotel. Ambitious restaurants by many of Iceland's top chefs. A good selection of food and drink from around the world.

Hlemmur Mathöllin (i.e. Hlemmur Food Hall)

Laugarvegur 107, <http://www.hlemmurmatholl.is/english/>

All kinds of food for all kinds of people. Hlemmur Food Hall is inspired by the great European food halls. Here, ten ambitious vendors provide samples of the best food Iceland has to offer.

Le Kock 2.0, Burgers

Tryggvagata 14, <https://www.lekock.is/>

Voted as the best burger in town by our office staff. This place offers great atmosphere, affordable street food (not just burgers), where everything is made from scratch. After the meal, try their delicious doughnuts, you will not regret it. No table reservations. Walk in only.

Flatey, Pizza

Grandagardur and Hlemmur Food Hall <http://flatey.pizza/>

True Napoli pizzas are now a reality in Reykjavík, with a pizzaiola from Naples, a custom electric oven that cooks pies in seconds, high-quality ingredients atop every signature thin slice, and leopard spot blistering. No table reservations. Walk in only.

Snaps, Brunch

Óðinstorg, <http://www.snaps.is/>

Snaps is a favorite amongst locals. This French style bistro and bar is the perfect choice for brunch. The menu includes omelets, classic egg benedict and croque monsieur.

Baejarins Beztu (i.e. The Best Hotdog in Town)

Tryggvagata, <http://www.bbp.is/information-in-english>

The hot dog is Iceland's favorite fast food. This tiny little hot dog stand, in central Reykjavík dates back to 1937 and is a local favorite. Hot dog condiments in Iceland include ketchup, sweet mustard, fried onion, raw onion and remoladi (a mayonnaise-based sauce with sweet relish). Do as the locals do and ask for "**eina með öllu**" literally meaning one with everything.

Braud & Co, Bakery

Frakkastíg 16 and Hlemmur Food Hall, <http://www.braudogco.is/>

An authentic bakery located close to the Hallgrímskirkja church. Delicious healthy bread and heavenly pastries that are made right in front of you in an open bakery. Try their cinnamon buns, you will not regret it

Valdís, Ice-Cream

Grandagardi 21 and Frakkastigur10, <http://valdis.is/index.php/is/>

Icelanders love ice cream, no matter the weather. Valdís is an ice-cream shop located at Grandi (old harbor area) in Reykjavík. This shop was an instant hit with the locals, serving Italian Gelato with a variety of interesting flavors.

SUGGESTIONS FOR A FREE DAY IN REYKJAVÍK

The following list includes our recommendations for a free day in Reykjavík.

Geothermal Swimming Pools

Swimming is very popular year-round in Iceland. The Reykjavík area has more than 10 high-quality outdoor swimming pools. The pools are filled with water from natural hot springs and many of them

also have saunas, steam baths, and various "hot tubs" with water temperatures ranging from 36 to 44 C (96 to 112 F). The pools closest to the city center are Sundholl Reykjavíkur, Vesturbæjarlaug and Laugardalslaug.

FlyOver Iceland – The Ultimate Flying Ride

Fiskislóð 43, <https://www.flyovericeland.com/>

FlyOver Iceland uses state-of-the-art technology to reveal some of Iceland's most awe-inspiring and picturesque landscapes and destinations. Guests will hang suspended, feet dangling, while the ride virtually whisks them away on an exhilarating journey around Iceland. Open from 9AM to 9PM

Hallgrímskirkja – Lutheran Church

Hallgrímstorg, <http://en.hallgrimskirkja.is/>

Hallgrímskirkja church is Reykjavík's main landmark and the largest church in the country. The tower can be seen from almost everywhere in the city and provides a wonderful 360° view over Reykjavík.

Admission to the church is free. Admission to the tower is ISK 1.000 - ISK 100 for children (7-16). Open from 9 AM to 10 PM

Harpa – Concert Hall and Conference Centre

Austurbakka 2, <https://en.harpa.is/>

Harpa is an enchanting destination with grand-scale award-winning architecture. The building features a distinctive colored glass facade inspired by the basalt landscape of Iceland and features stunning views of the surrounding mountains and the North Atlantic Ocean.

Magic Ice Reykjavík

Laugavegur 4-6, <https://www.magicice.no/listings/reykjavik-iceland/>

A Magical Ice bar in Reykjavík City Center. Have a drink in a sub-zero ice gallery with sculptures & a bar, all made in crystal-clear ice. Serves alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks.

Open between 11:00 AM – 11PM

Perlan – Wonders of Iceland

Öskjuhlíð, <https://perlan.is/>

An exhibition about the geological and natural wonders of Iceland. This place also includes a 360°observatory deck with great views over the capital. Open from 9AM to 7PM

The Settlement Exhibition

Adalstræti 16, www.reykjavik871.is

The Settlement exhibition displays a Viking-age longhouse from around 930 AD. The ruins of the longhouse and a part of a man-made structure – a turf wall – have been preserved and are now on display. These are the oldest archaeological findings in Reykjavík. Open 9AM to 6PM.

The National Museum

Sudurgata 41, www.thjodminjasafn.is

The National Museum of Iceland's permanent exhibition, *making of a Nation - Heritage and History in Iceland*, is intended to provide insight into the history of the Icelandic nation from the Settlement to the present day. The museum is located next to the University of Iceland about 10 min walk from the center of town.

Open from 10AM to 5PM. (Closed on Mondays during Winter)

The National Gallery of Art

Frikirkjuvegur 7, www listasafn.is

The main emphasis of the collection is on 19th and 20th century Icelandic art but international art is featured as well. The museum owns the most valuable collection of works by Icelandic artists in the country.

Open from 11AM to 5PM. (Closed on Mondays during Winter)

Whales of Iceland

Fiskislóð 23-25, <https://www.whalesoficeland.is/>

A display of lifesize whales with information about the different species of whales that are found in the ocean around Iceland. Kids absolutely adore this place. Open from 10AM to 5PM.

FAQs

Where is Iceland?

Iceland is a European island country located midway between North America and mainland Europe. It lies just below the Arctic Circle between 64 and 66 degrees north. The capital is Reykjavik. It is the northernmost capital in the world and is located exactly halfway between New York and Moscow.

How big is Iceland?

Iceland is 103,000 square km. It's about one-quarter larger than Ireland or about the size of the state of Ohio. The population is 370,000. Two out of three Icelanders live in the greater Reykjavik area. One third live in coastal areas around the island. The central highlands are uninhabited. The biggest city outside of the Reykjavik metropolitan area is Akureyri which is located in the north and has 20,000 inhabitants.

Do Icelanders speak English?

Icelanders start learning English in the 4th grade and most Icelanders (especially younger people) speak decent English. Many welcome the opportunity to practice their second language — so don't be shy about starting a conversation in English.

What is the food like?

Fish, lamb and dairy products are the basics of the Icelandic diet. Icelandic fish such as cod, haddock, halibut, ray, redfish, and lobster are caught in the unpolluted waters of the North Atlantic and has a reputation for superb quality. Freshwater salmon and trout are also popular during the summer months. The use of hormones in livestock is forbidden in Iceland and sheep and lambs roam freely on mountain meadows during summer. Icelandic dairy produce has a delicate flavor produced by the clean environment and fragrant pastures that the herds are reared on. Try some of the Icelandic specialties such as skyr, a skimmed milk curd. The Icelandic tap water is natural spring water and is pure and safe to drink throughout the country.

What is the currency?

The Icelandic currency is kronur (ISK). It's easy to exchange money at the airport, in banks and at currency exchanges. You can also pay for virtually anything with a credit card – except the public buses. Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted; American Express and Diner's Card less so. Bank machines are easy to find.

What about electricity?

Icelandic electrical wall sockets are European (50Hz, 240 volts), with standard two-prong plugs (Type F/C). Most North American electrical devices will require converters and all North American and UK devices (including laptops) will require plug adapters.

Is there a shopping tax refund?

When you buy goods in Iceland that cost more than 12,000 ISK you can get about 15% refunded. It's easy to [claim the refund](#).

Will my mobile phone work in Iceland?

Mobile phones in Iceland use the European GSM system. Most North American smart phones will work. The country code for Iceland from overseas is +354. There are no area codes in Iceland.

What about Internet access?

It's easy to get Internet access throughout Iceland. Most hotels offer free wi-fi access.