

REYKJAVIK

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

Some of our favorite hotel picks in Reykjavik

- Kvosin Downtown Hotel

Kvosin Hotel is located in the historic Kirkjuvöll building at the center of Reykjavik. The hotel is close by to Parliament and the Old Downtown Church, so guests are truly part of history.

Built in 1900 and refurbished in 2013, the hotel meets the needs of the modern traveler. All 24 rooms have spacious living areas, cooking facilities, and warm but cool Scandinavian décor.

- First Hotel Alda

First Hotel Alda is located on the main shopping street, Laugavegur, in the very heart of center of Reykjavik, Iceland's vibrant capital city. Have a good night's sleep in Alda's Hotel's Nordic designed, spacious rooms and start your day with a healthy, hearty breakfast.

- Hotel Odinsve

Hotel Odinsve is a 50 room boutique hotel in downtown Reykjavik and offers a relaxed atmosphere, an impeccable service with emphasis on comfort and personal attention. Within the hotel you will find SNAPS, a restaurant that has lately become the most popular meeting place in Reykjavík. SNAPS offer a mixture of French bistro atmosphere and outstanding Icelandic culinary menu.

From the airport

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

The easiest and most cost effective way to get into town is to take the Shuttle Bus. The drive to Reykjavik city centre takes approximately 45 minutes. The Bus stops at assigned bus stops, from where it is a short walk to your hotel.

Activities

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

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

Videy Island - This is a unique site that combines history, culture and nature, and is only a few minutes away by boat. Videy was inhabited until the 1940s and it is here that you can find Videyjarstofa, the oldest stone building in Iceland built for the High Sheriff in 1752. There are hiking paths around the island, which is renowned for its varied bird life. At least 30 species of breeding birds have been counted on the island.

Waterfront & Sun Voyager - The city's northern waterfront is a popular area, with a view of Reykjavik's landmark mountain, Mt. Esja. The striking sculpture Sun Voyager by Jon Gunnar Arnason stands here. It is a massive steel sculpture in the shape of a Viking ship. Stand by this sculpture during sunrise or sunset, at any time of the year, and enjoy an unforgettable moment.



Credits: ©RagnarThSigurdsson/Visit Reykjavik



Hallgrímskirkja, Credits: ©RomanGerasymenko/Visit Reykjavik



Credits: ©RagnarThSigurdsson/Visit Reykjavik

But wait - there is more...

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

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



Credits: Islenski Barinn



Credits: Islenski Barinn



Credits: Forréttu barinn

Restaurants

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

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

Address: Geirsgata 8
Web: www.saegreifinn.is

Sjavarkjallarinn - This is a great seafood restaurant and a must for those who prefer fish. Be aware though that it is very popular so reserving a table is probably required.

Address: Adalstraeti 2, Reykjavik
Tel: (+354) 511-1211

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

Address: Íslenski Barinn, Ingólfsstræti 1a
Tel: (+354) 517 67 67

Forréttu barinn (Starters Restaurant & Bar) - This restaurant located close to the Old Harbour specialises in starters and provides a relaxed atmosphere with beautiful views and friendly, personal service.

Great spot to try some new and exciting things from their starters menu.

Address: Nýlendugata 14, 101 Reykjavik
Phone: +354 517 1800

Tip!

Download the app "Be Iceland" and find information about everything there is to see, do and experience in Iceland.