

EVENTS IN ICELAND 2017

COME AND BE
INSPIRED BY ICELAND

JANUARY

NEW YEAR'S DAY

After midnight, people gather either for parties in homes or downtown, where they celebrate the night away until the early hours of the morning.
January 1

THE THIRTEENTH

Icelanders enjoy thirteen days of Christmas. The last day is celebrated with bonfires, bidding farewell to the last of the Icelandic Yule Lads.
January 6

DARK MUSIC DAYS

Annual contemporary music festival with the focus on performing and getting to know new compositions and performers worldwide.
January 26-28. darkmusicdays.is

REYKJAVIK INTERNATIONAL GAMES

Athletes compete at a high level in various sports in world class facilities in Laugardalur in Reykjavik.
January 26-February 5. rig.is

SCOTTISH FESTIVAL WEEK

KEX Hostel celebrates Burns Night in collaboration with the Edinburgh Association in Iceland and Icelandair.
January 28-29. kexland.is

THORRABLOT

A midwinter festival offered to the gods in pagan Iceland of the past. The timing for the festival coincides with the month of Thorri, according to the old Icelandic calendar, which begins on the first Friday after January 19th (the 13th week of winter).

FEBRUARY

REYKJAVIK WINTER LIGHTS FESTIVAL

A culture festival that celebrates winter and light with multiple events.
February 2-5. vetrarhatid.is

RAINBOW REYKJAVIK WINTER PRIDE

Rainbow Reykjavik combines amazing nature, nightlife and northern lights in fantastic international and local company.
February 9-12. rainbowreykjavik.is

GERMAN FILM DAYS

Hosted by Cinema Paradise the German Film Days show you some of the very best current titles that German Cinema has to offer.
February 10-19. bioparadis.is

SÓNAR REYKJAVÍK

International festival of Advanced Music and new Media Art created in 1994 in Barcelona with attention in curation, combining a playful nature, the avant-garde, and experimentation with newest trends in dance and electronic music.
February 16-18. sonarreykjavik.com

THE ANNUAL ICELANDIC BEER FESTIVAL

Festival passes will give people access to the festival where they can taste the festival beers and give an access to the people behind the beers.
February 22-25. kexland.is

STOCKFISH FILM FESTIVAL

A platform in Reykjavik to encourage collaboration between domestic and international film communities.
Feb. 23-March 5. stockfishfestival.is

MARCH

FOOD AND FUN

It's a culinary circus which pairs some of the most well renowned chefs from both sides of the Atlantic with Reykjavik's best restaurants.
March 1-5. foodandfun.is

THE REYKJAVÍK FOLK FESTIVAL

A three-day musical feast at Kex Hostel Reykjavik, celebrating the diversity and breadth of the Icelandic folk music scene.
March 2-4. folkfestival.is/en

DESIGN MARCH

For four days, Reykjavik plays host to hundreds of openings, exhibitions, workshops and events spreading across the city.
March 23 - 26. designmarch.is

REYKJAVIK FASHION FESTIVAL

The main goal of RFF is to market Icelandic fashion design and introduce the development and possible opportunities in the Icelandic fashion industry.
March 23-26. rff.is

APRIL

ICELAND WRITERS RETREAT

Each participant is enrolled in a total of five two-hour small-group writing workshops led by internationally acclaimed authors.
April 5-9. icelandwritersretreat.com

AK EXTREME

AK Extreme is a four day festival with events scheduled at Mt. Hlíðarfjall and in downtown Akureyri. The main event is the Eimskip Container Big Jump in downtown Akureyri.
April 6 - 9. akx.is

EVE FANFEST

Presentations, tournaments, and developer roundtables. Parties, pub crawls, and community camaraderie, gathering, vacation and experience.
April 6-8. eveonline.com

REYKJAVIK BLUES FESTIVAL

Blues artists from Europe, Iceland and North America perform together in some of the most unique jam sessions in the Northern Hemisphere.
April 8 - 13. blues.is

FIRST DAY OF SUMMER

The first day of Harpa, the first summer month of the old Icelandic calendar. The holiday always falls on the first Thursday after April 18 and has been a bank holiday since 1921.
April 20.

CHILDREN'S CULTURE FESTIVAL

Children's culture, culture for children and culture with children, these are the three main aspects of the Reykjavik Children's Culture Festival.
April 25-30. childrensculturefestival.is

FOSSAVATN SKI MARATHON

1 km, 5 km, 12 km, 25 km and 50 km. The oldest ski race in Iceland, dating back to 1935.
April 27-29. fossavatn.com

MAY

PEACE CHOIR FESTIVAL

Choirs all over the world sing for PEACE in Harpa concert hall and conference centre in Reykjavik
May 20. reykjavikpeacefestival.com

VAKA FOLK ARTS FESTIVAL IN AKUREYRI

Enjoy the very best folk musicians, dancers and crafts workers, rooted in the traditional folk arts of Iceland, along with performers from the Nordic and countries of northern Europe.
May 23-27. thjodlist.is/vakaen/vaka-2017

RAFLOST FESTIVAL

A festival of electronic arts and media bringing together artists of various art forms, music, visual arts, dance, science, hackers, media art, students etc.
May 25-27. www.raftost.is

JUNE

KEXREIÐ 2017 (KEX RIDE)

An annual street cycling race competition held in the heart of 101 Reykjavik. Kex Hostel Kria Cycles will join for the fifth time to make this race happen.
June 3. www.kexland.is

BLUE LAGOON CHALLENGE

Iceland's largest mtb race, 60 km through the spectacular, volcanic scenery at Reykjanes. From the town of Hafnarfjörður to the iconic Blue Lagoon.
June 3. bluelagoonchallenge.is

THE SAILORS DAY

Every ship in Iceland is in harbor and all the sailors have a day off. Sailor's day is a light hearted occasion with lots of fun for the whole family.
June 11. hatidhafsins.is

THE FESTIVAL OF THE SEA

Family event held in Reykjavik on the weekend of June 3 and 4, down by Reykjavik west harbour Grandagarður (next to the Maritime museum).
June 10 - 11. hatidhafsins.is

THE COLOR RUN

Now the single largest event series in the world, The Color Run has exploded since the debut event in 2012, hosted by more than 300 cities in 50+ countries.
June 10. thecolorrun.is

FOOTBALL 2018 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

The Icelandic men's national football team meets Croatia at Laugardalsvöllur in a qualifying game for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.
June 11. ksi.is

SECRET SOLSTICE FESTIVAL

Held during the summer solstice weekend, in Laugardalur where you'll be able to party at a time when the sun never fully sets in Iceland.
June 16-18. secretsolstice.is

NATIONAL DAY OF ICELAND

Commemorating Iceland's independence from Denmark on June 17, 1944. Colourful parades, street performances, games for kids and free outdoor music concerts lasting late into the evening. View the full program on www.17juni.is

THE VIKING FESTIVAL

Since 1995 Viking village in Hafnarfjörður has been a playground of Vikings demonstrating through the years most aspects of Viking culture, ships, cuisine, handcraft, storytelling, archery, games, music and battle demonstrations.
fjorukrain.is

MT. ESJA ULTRA

The Esja mountain range is just 25 minutes from Reykjavik city by car and is a favorite training spot among Icelandic trail and mountain runners living in the capital area. The Mt. Esja Marathon is limited to 100 participants.
June 18. mtesjaultra.is

WOW CYCLOTHON

Relay bike race where team members take turns cycling on Iceland's Ring Road in less than 72 hours.
June 20-23. wowcyclothon.is

ARCTIC OPEN

International golf tournament which takes place in Iceland's northern capital Akureyri, in the light of the midnight sun.
June 21-24. arcticopen.is

REYKJAVIK MIDSUMMER MUSIC

Award-winning chamber music festival founded by the pianist Víkingur Ólafsson in 2012. It takes place in Reykjavik's concert hall, Harpa, every year around summer solstice.
June 22-25. reykjavikmidsommersmusic.com

SUZUKI MIDNIGHT RUN

Half marathon, 10 k race and a 5 k. The half marathon course is both challenging and beautiful with a wonderful view.
June 23. marathon.is/midnight-run

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JULY

EISTNAFLUG

Eistnaflug Music festival – Three days of non stop rock and heavy metal in an isolated fjord, Neskaupsstaður, 700 km east of Reykjavík. **July 5-8. eistnaflug.is**

FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL IN SIGLUFJORDUR

Icelandic and Scandinavian folk music as well as world music and folk dances. 15-20 concerts are held in different location of the town. **July 5-9. siglofestival.com/english**

EXTREME CHILL

The first pure electronica festival in Iceland. The 8th anniversary of Extreme Chill Festival will take place in Reykjavík. **July 7-9. www.extremechill.org**

THE GOLDEN CIRCLE CHALLENGE

Annual cycling competition with 3 routes to suit both professional riders and beginners alike. Starts and finish by lake Laugarvatn. **July 8. goldencirclechallenge.com**

MEDIEVAL TRADING WEEKEND

At Gásir in Eyjafjörður (North Iceland) a medieval trading village is re-created on a historical site, demonstrations in medieval crafts and games. **July 14-16. gasir.is**

LAUGAVEGUR ULTRA MARATHON

The course takes runners through areas of outstanding natural beauty at the same time as being a challenging course. **July 15. marathon.is/ultramarathon**

KEXPort

KEX Hostel and KEX Radio invite you to an outdoor marathon concert extravaganza from noon till midnight. Free concert with several bands and musicians. **July 15. kexland.is**

ROLLING SNOWBALL / 9

An international visual art exhibition in East Iceland which presents works by contemporary artists. **July 15-August 20. www.east.is/en/what-to-see-and-do/events/rolling-snowball-6**

LungA

A festival in Seydisfjörður in East Iceland, that celebrates creativity, art and culture in general, through a week of workshops, lectures and other activities, ending in a weekend of celebration, exhibitions and concerts. **July 16-23. lunga.is**

CHALLENGE ICELAND

1900 m swim, 90 km bike, 21 km run
The world's northernmost half distance race, where athletes swim in an untouched crystal clear glacial lake and run and bike in the picturesque, diverse fjord landscape. **July 23. challengeiceland.is**

REYKHOLT CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Reykholt Festival is an international music festival held in historic Reykholt, the birth place of Snorri Sturluson in Borgarfjörður, the last week of July every year. **July 28-30. reykholtshatid.is**

BRÆDSLAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

A renowned music-festival Bræðslan has been held in the old rendering house in Bakkagerði in Borgarfjörður eystri (East Iceland). **July 29. braedslan.is**

AUGUST

ICELANDIC BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Towns and organizations host various festivals all over the country. Partying, concerts, family-oriented gatherings, music and sport. **August 5-7.**

INNIPÚKINN

Innipúkinn music festival is a indoor option for those not going for the happy-camper spirit during this Icelandic bank holiday party weekend. **August 4-6. innipukinn.is**

SWAMPSOCCER

Takes place in Ísafjörður town (West Fjords). If you want to play you can sign up for the catch-all team, a collection of oddballs both from Iceland and around the world. **August 5-6. myrarbolti.com.**

REYKJAVIK PRIDE

Every second weekend of August, gays, lesbians and more, come out in force and style to parade and party in Reykjavík. **August 8-13. gaypride.is**

REYKJAVIK JAZZ FESTIVAL

The Reykjavik Jazz Festival is dedicated to presenting the best in Icelandic Music. The Jazz in Iceland is all about connecting with the international music scene. **August 9-13. reykjavikjazz.is**

PLAN-B

The first art festival of its kind in the West of Iceland where attention is directed towards contemporary art and conversation between mixed media. **August 11-13. planbartfestival.is**

FIREWORKS SHOW AT JOKULSARLON

Annual event by Jokulsarlon in the Vatnajökull Region. Illuminated icebergs bathed in colour from the magnificent firework show. **August 12. visitvatnajokull.is**

ACT ALONE

The festival is held every year in the town Sudureyri in the Westfjords of Iceland. There is no entrance fee at the Act Alone Theatre Festival. **August 12-13. actalone.net**

REYKJAVIK CULTURE NIGHT

Essential part of cultural life in Iceland with thousands of people strolling the streets of the city on this exciting and eventful night. **August 19. culturenight.is**

REYKJAVÍK MARATHON

(42,2 km, 21,1 km & 10k). This event goes hand-in-hand with the Reykjavik Cultural Night. **August 19. marathon.is**

THE REYKJAVÍK DANCE FESTIVAL

Bringing modern dance to a higher level of visibility within society and introducing the independent dance choreographers currently creating work in Iceland. **August 21-31. reykjavikdancefestival.com**

SEPTEMBER

THE NIGHTS OF LIGHTS

The culture and family festival Nights of Lights is held every year in Reykjanesbær (near Keflavik airport). Art, theatre and music performed by groups and individuals, to a spectacular finale under a blaze of fireworks. **August 31-Sept 3. ljosanott.is**

THE ICELANDIC TATTOO EXPO

The Icelandic Tattoo Expo takes place at Hótel Saga, featuring some international artists. **September 1-3. icelandictattooexpo.com**

FOOTBALL 2018 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

The Icelandic men's national football team meets Ukraine at Laugardalsvöllur in a qualifying game for the 2018 FIFA World Cup. **September 5. ksi.is**

REYKJAVIK INTERN. LITERARY FESTIVAL

Held since 1985 and is one of the most important in ternational literary festivals in Europe. **September 6-9. bokmenntahatid.is**

REYKJAVIK INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

RIFF is one of the foremost film festivals in Europe, placing emphasis on presenting progressive, independent cinema. **September 28- October 8. riff.is**

OCTOBER

IMAGINE PEACE TOWER (Yoko Ono)

Dedicated to the memory of John Lennon. Every year the Imagine Peace Tower emerges between Lennon's birthday and the day of his death. **Oct. 9-Dec. 8. imaginepeacetower.com**

FOOTBALL 2018 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

The Icelandic men's national football team meets Kosovo at Laugardalsvöllur in a qualifying game for the 2018 FIFA World Cup. **October 10. ksi.is**

CYCLE MUSIC AND ART FESTIVAL

International and local platform for contemporary art music and visual arts and the intersection between both disciplines. **October 26-29. cycle.is**

NOVEMBER

ICELAND AIRWAVES FESTIVAL

This festival is fast gaining a reputation as one of the best alternative music events on planet earth to go to and garnering praise from the broadsheets and music magazines. **November 1-5. icelandairwaves.is**

LÓKAL THEATER FESTIVAL

Annual event in Reykjavik that introduces cutting edge theatre to audiences in Iceland and connects local theatre practitioners with fellow artists and presenters from abroad. **November 15- 19. lokal.is**

ICELAND NOIR

Iceland Noir, Iceland's first festival of crime fiction takes place in Reykjavik with two-and-a-half days of interviews and panels at the Nordic House and with associated events taking place around the city. **iceland-noir-ioey.squarespace.com**

DECEMBER

THE CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

This feast of sights and sounds in downtown Hafnarfjörður offers live entertainment, beautiful handcrafted items and some homemade Icelandic delicacies. **December 1-24. visithafnarfjordur.is**

OSLO CHRISTMAS TREE

Placed in Austurvöllur Square, in downtown Reykjavik and is lit every year on the first Sunday of the advent. Families gather to sing Christmas carols and see and hear the famous Yule Lads.

YULE LADS

Every year the Yule Lads go in their annual bath in the Myvatn Naturebath where guests can join them and have some fun. The bath takes place two weeks before Christmas. **northiceland.is**

CHRISTMAS

Icelanders go in for Christmas in a big way, lots of activities all through the holidays.

NEW YEAR'S EVE 10 K RUN

Many participants dress up and run in costumes. Starts and ends in front of HARPA concert hall and conference centre at 12 o'clock. **December 31. hlaup.is**

NEW YEAR'S EVE

With everyone taking part in the biggest firework display you'll ever see, public bonfires are lit all around the country, followed by very lively nightlife.

iceland.is/press-media/events