

# 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](http://darkmusicdays.is)

### SCOTTISH FESTIVAL WEEK

KEX Hostel celebrates Burns Night in collaboration with the Edinburgh Association in Iceland and Icelandair. [January 28-29. kexland.is](http://kexland.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](http://rig.is)

## FEBRUARY

### REYKJAVIK WINTER LIGHTS FESTIVAL

A culture festival that celebrates winter and light with multiple events. [February 2-5. vetrarhatid.is](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://kexland.is)

### 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.

February 22-25.

[blues.is](http://blues.is)

### STOCKFISH FILM FESTIVAL

A platform in Reykjavik to encourage collaboration between domestic and international film communities. [Feb. 23-March 5. stockfishfestival.is](http://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](http://foodandfun.is)

### 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](http://designmarch.is)

### ICELAND WINTER GAMES

IWVG has become one of the biggest winter festivals in Europe, with events like ski- and snowboard competitions and dog sledding championship.

March 25- April 2. [icelandwintergames.com](http://icelandwintergames.com)

## APRIL

### ICELAND WRITERS RETREAT

Over the course of the retreat, each participant is enrolled in a total of five two-hour small-group writing workshops led by internationally acclaimed authors, a Q&A panel with all faculty, and numerous readings and social functions.

April 5-9. [icelandwritersretreat.com](http://icelandwritersretreat.com)

### EVE FANFEST

Presentations, tournaments, and developer roundtables. Parties, pub crawls, and community camaraderie, gathering, vacation and experience.

April 6-8. [eveonline.com](http://eveonline.com)

### 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.](http://april20.is)

### 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](http://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 and a member of Worldloppet Ski Federation, an international sports federation of cross-country skiing marathons. [April 27-29. fossavatn.com](http://fossavatn.com)

## MAY

### PEACE CHOIR FESTIVAL

Choirs all over the world sing for PEACE

May 20. [reykjavikpeacefestival.com](http://reykjavikpeacefestival.com)

### TECTONICS

A music festival where various music genres are mixed together with orchestral music and up-and-coming composers and young musicians work with the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra.

[tectonicfestival.com](http://tectonicfestival.com)

### REYKJAVIK ART FESTIVAL

Iceland's premier cultural festival, bringing together the best in local and international theatre, dance, music and visual art.

[listahatid.is](http://listahatid.is)

## JUNE

### KEXREIÐ 2017 (KEX RIDE)

An annual street cycling race competition held in the heart of 101 Reykjavik. This race is getting bigger and bigger every year and on June 3 Kex Hostel Kría Cycles will join for the fifth time to make this race happen. [June 3. www.kexland.is](http://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](http://bluelagoonchallenge.is)

### FESTIVAL OF THE SEA

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 3-4. [hatidhafsins.is](http://hatidhafsins.is)

### THE COLOR RUN

The Color Run is a unique color race that celebrates healthiness, happiness and individuality. 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](http://thecolorrun.is)

### SECRET SOLSTICE FESTIVAL

Secret Solstice takes place in the world's most northerly capital city of Reykjavik for the fourth time. 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. [secretssolstice.is](http://secretssolstice.is)

### NATIONAL DAY OF ICELAND

Commemorating Iceland's independence from Denmark on June 17, 1944, National Day is one of Iceland's most popular events of the summer. 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](http://www.17juni.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 16-18. mtesjaultra.is](http://mtesjaultra.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](http://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.

[reykjavikmidsummermusic.com](http://reykjavikmidsummermusic.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. [marathon.is/midnight-run](http://marathon.is/midnight-run)

### 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](http://wowcyclothon.is)

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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](http://eistnaflug.is)**

### FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL IN SIGLUFJORDUR

The Folk Music Festival in Siglufjörður commences on the first Wednesday of July every year. 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 5-8. [folkmusik.is/en](http://folkmusik.is/en)**

### THE GOLDEN CIRCLE CHALLENGE

The Golden Circle Cycling Challenge is an annual cycling competition with 3 routes to suit both professional riders and beginners alike. Starts and finish by lake Laugarvatn. **July 8. [goldencirclechallenge.com](http://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](http://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/ultramathon](http://marathon.is/ultramathon)**

### KEXPort

KEX Hostel and KEX Radio invite you to an outdoor marathon concert extravaganza from noon till midnight. KEXPort is an annual block party that takes place in the back alley of KEX Hostel. A free concert with several bands and musicians. **July 15. [kexland.is](http://kexland.is)**

### LungA

A festival in Seydisfjörður in East Iceland, that celebrates creativity, art, collaboration 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](http://lunga.is)**

### CHALLENGE ICELAND TRIATHLON

1900 m swim, 90 km bike, 21 km run  
The world's northernmost half distance race. The athletes swim in an untouched crystal clear glacial lake left by the glacial melt of the Ice Age and run and bike in the picturesque, diverse fjord landscape. **July 23. [challengeiceland.is](http://challengeiceland.is)**

### BRÆDSLAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

A renowned music-festival Bræðslan has been held in the old rendering house in Bakkagerði in Borgarfjörður eystri (East Iceland). **[braedslan.is](http://braedslan.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. **[reykholtshatid.is](http://reykholtshatid.is)**

## AUGUST

### ICELANDIC BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

The Icelandic travel weekend. Towns and organizations host various festivals all over the country. Partying, concerts, family-oriented gatherings, music and sport. Almost everyone goes off to camp at festivals around the country. **August 4-6.**

### INNIPÚKINN

Innipúkinn music festival is held both inside, and in Reykjavík. It's the indoor/city option for those not going for the happy-camper spirit during this Icelandic bank holiday party weekend. **August 4-6. [innipukinn.is](http://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. [myrabolti.com](http://myrabolti.com)**

### REYKJAVIK PRIDE

Every second weekend of August, Gays, lesbians and more, come out in force and style to parade and party in Reykjavík. **[gaypride.is](http://gaypride.is)**

### FIREWORKS SHOW AT JOKULSARLON

Annual event by Jokulsarlon in the Vatnajökull Region. Illuminated icebergs bathed in colour from the magnificent firework show in nature's most spectacular surrounding creates an extraordinary experience for spectators. **August 12. [visitvatnajokull.is](http://visitvatnajokull.is)**

### ACT ALONE

A theatre festival dedicated to the art of acting alone, monodrama. The Act Alone festival is held every year in the town Sudureyri in the Westfjords of Iceland and always on the second weekend of August. There is no entrance fee at the Act Alone Theatre Festival. **August 12-13. [actalone.net](http://actalone.net)**

### 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](http://reykjavikjazz.is)**

### REYKJAVÍK MARATHON

(42,2 km, 21,1 km & 10k). Attracts more than 10.000 runners in all events, including more than 600 from abroad. Reykjavik Marathon became a member of AIMS in 1984. This event goes hand-in-hand with the Reykjavik Cultural Night. **August 19. [marathon.is](http://marathon.is)**

### LÓKAL THEATER FESTIVAL

Annual event in Reykjavík that introduces cutting edge theatre to audiences in Iceland and connects local theatre practitioners with fellow artists and presenters from abroad. **23.-27. ágúst. [lokal.is](http://lokal.is)**

### 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](http://culturenight.is)**

## SEPTEMBER

### THE NIGHTS OF LIGHTS

The culture and family festival Nights of Lights is held every year in Reykjanesbær (by Keflavík airport). Starts on Thursday when the Keflavík Cliffs are lit up. Art, theatre and music performed by groups and individuals, to a spectacular finale under a blaze of fireworks. **August 31-Sept 3. [ljosanott.is](http://ljosanott.is)**

### THE ICELANDIC TATTOO EXPO

The Icelandic Tattoo Expo takes place at Hótel Saga, featuring some international artists. **1-3 September. [icelandictattooexpo.com](http://icelandictattooexpo.com)**

### REYKJAVIK INTERNATIONAL LITERARY FESTIVAL

Held since 1985 and is one of the most important literary festivals in Europe. **September 6-9. [bokmenntahatid.is](http://bokmenntahatid.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. **[reykjavikdancefestival.com](http://reykjavikdancefestival.com)**

### 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](http://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](http://imaginepeacetower.com)**

### 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](http://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 2-6. [icelandairwaves.is](http://icelandairwaves.is)**

## DECEMBER

### 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.

### CHRISTMAS

Icelanders go in for Christmas in a big way, with 13 Santa Clauses who each have a name and characters play pranks and sing in the beautifully illuminated streets. Lots of activities all through the holidays.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE 10 K RUN

Gamlárshlaup ÍR is held every year on December 31st. 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](http://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.

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[iceland.is/press-media/events](http://iceland.is/press-media/events)