EVENTS IN ICELAND 2019

**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.

**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**

**FEBRUARY**

**REYKJAVÍK WINTER LIGHTS FESTIVAL**
A culture festival that celebrates winter and light with multiple events and installations. This year a celebration of the cultural and historic impact of the Vikings will be presented through the follow the Vikings Roadshow held in the hall ‘Portið’ on **February 7th.**

**WOW REYKJAVÍK INTERNATIONAL GAMES**
Athletes compete at a high level in various sports in world class facilities in Laugardalur in Reykjavík. **January 24-Feburary 3. rig.is**

**ART IN THE LIGHT**
The Art in the Light festival celebrates the return of the sun after a long winter by transforming Seyðisfjarður town (East Iceland) into a brightly lit hub of activity. **February 15-16. listiljosi.com**

**THE ANNUAL ICELANDIC BEER FESTIVAL**
Kex Hostel’s gastropub Sæmundur i sparflútunum in Reykjavík will offer a beer orientated menu and local breweries will introduce their products and methods. **February 21-23. kexland.is**

**FOOD AND FUN**
Talented chefs from all over the world come together at Reykjavík’s top restaurants. A mixture of outstanding culinary skills, fresh natural ingredients, and Reykjavik nightlife to create the ultimate recipe for fun. **February 27-March 3. foodandfun.is**

**STOCKFISH FILM FESTIVAL**
A platform in Reykjavík to encourage collaboration between domestic and international film communities. **February 28-March 10. stockfishfestival.is**

**MARCH**

**RAINBOW REYKJAVÍK WINTER PRIDE**
Rainbow Reykjavik LGBT Winter Pride Festival combines amazing nature, nightlife and northern lights in fantastic international and local company. **February 7-10. rainbowreykjavik.is**

**ICELAND WINTER GAMES**
Events ranging from ski- and snowboard competitions, to the Icelandic National Dog sledding championship. **March 22-24. icelandwintergames.com**

**APRIL**

**DESIGN TALKS (DESIGN MARCH)**
Starting with DesignTalks held in Harpa, the festival showcases the best local creative scene, ranging from architecture to fashion, fonts, furniture and food design. **March 28-31. designmarch.is**

**ICELAND WRITERS RETREAT**
Each participant is enrolled in a total of five two-hour small-group writing workshops led by internationally acclaimed authors. **April 3-7. icelandwritersretreat.com**

**AK EXTREME**
AK Extreme is a four day festival with events scheduled at Mt. Hlíðarfjall and in downtown Akureyri (North Iceland). The main event is the Emsip Container Big Jump in downtown Akureyri. **April 4-7. akx.is**

**CHILDREN’S CULTURE FESTIVAL**
Children’s culture, culture for children and culture with children, these are the three main aspects of the Reykjavík Children’s Culture Festival. **April 9-14. childrensculturefestival.is**

**ALDREI FÓR ÉG Suður**
Aldrei fóri eigu (I never went South) is a music festival held during Easter in Ísafjarðarbær (Westfjords). The festival runs hand in hand with the Skíweek festival. **April 19-20. aldrei.is**

**REYKJAVÍK INTERNATIONAL LITERARY FESTIVAL**
This biannual festival has been held since 1985 and is one of the most important literary festivals in Europe. **April 22-27. bokmenntahatid.is**

**FIRST DAY OF SUMMER**
The first day of Harpa, the first summer month of Iceland. The holiday always falls on the first Thursday after April 18 and has been a bank holiday since 1921. **April 25.**

**SÓNAR REYKJAVÍK**
International festival of Advanced Music and new Media Art with attention in curation with newest trends in dance and electronic music. **April 25-27. sonarreykjavik.com**

**MAY**

**FOSSAVATN SKI MARATHON**
Takes place in the Westfjords winter paradise, Ísafjarður. 1 km, 5 km, 12 km, 25 km and 50 km. The oldest ski race in Iceland, dating back to 1935. **May 2-5. fossavatn.com**

**REYKJAVÍK METAL FESTIVAL**
An annual gathering of extreme music lovers in the heart of Reykjavik Iceland. **May 16-18. reykjavikmetalfest.is**

**INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY**
Many museums in Iceland participate in this day with various events and free activities. **May 18.**

**JUNE**

**REYKJAVÍK ART FESTIVAL**
Iceland’s premier cultural festival, bringing together the best in local and international theatre, dance, music and visual art. **June 1-17. listahatid.is**

**THE COLOR RUN IN REYKJAVÍK**
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 1. thecolorrun.is**

**THE FESTIVAL OF THE SEA**
Family event held in Reykjavík on the weekend of June 2-3, down by Reykjavík west harbour Grandagarður (next to the Maritime museum). **June 1-2. hatidhafsins.is**

**THE SAILORS DAY**
Every ship in Iceland is in harbor and all the sailors will have a day off. Sailor’s day is a light hearted occasion with lots of fun for the whole family. **June 2.**

**THE VIKING FESTIVAL**
Since 1995 Viking village in Hatnarfjörður (Capital Region) has been a playground of Vikings demonstrating most aspects of Viking culture. **June 13-17. fjorukrain.is**

**MT. ESJA ULTRA**
Mt. Esja Ultra® is considered the toughest single stage race in Iceland. The race takes place on the hiking path at Mt. Esja. 42 km and 14 km. **June 15.**

**NATIONAL DAY OF ICELAND**
Commemorating Iceland’s independence on June 17, 1944. Colourful parades, games for kids and free outdoor music concerts lasting late into the evening. **17juni.is**

**ARCTIC OPEN**
International golf tournament which takes place in Iceland’s northern capital Akureyri, in the light of the midnight sun. **June 19-22. arcticopen.is**

**SUZUKI MIDNIGHT RUN**
Half marathon, 10 k and a 5 k race. The half marathon course is both challenging and beautiful with a wonderful view. **June 20. marathon.is/midnight-run**

**SECRET SOLTICE FESTIVAL**
Held during the summer solstice weekend, in Laugardalur in Reykjavík, where you’ll be able to party at a time when the sun never fully sets in Iceland. **June 21-23. secretsoltice.is**

**WOW CYCLOTHON**
Relay bike race where team members take turns cycling on Iceland’s Ring Road in less than 72 hours. **June 25-29. wowcyclothon.is**

**REYKJAVÍK FRINGE**
Second edition in Iceland of the internationally knowns festival. Be it theatre, stand-up comedy, dance, poetry, burlesque, street performance, installation art, mobile art, or any other form of artistry - you name it, a Fringe Festival has put it on. **June 29 - July 6. rvkfringe.is**
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**JULY**


**ICELANDIC BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND**
Towns and organizations host various festivals all over the country. Party ing, concerts, family-oriented gatherings, music and sport. **August 2-5.**

**REYKJAVIK CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL**
The festival is one of the oldest and most established summer festivals in Iceland and an important event in the music scene. **July 26-28. reykholtsfestival.is**

**FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL**
Nineteen concerts held in Siglufjörður town (North Iceland), with Icelandic and Scandinavian folk music as well as world music and folk dances. **July 3-7. siglufestival.com**

**THORVALDSDALUR TERRAIN RUN**
The oldest terrain run in Iceland. The run is held early July each year in the Þórsmörk area in northern Iceland. **July 6. thorvaldsdalur.umse.is**

**EINSTAFLUG**
Einstaflug Music festival – Three days of non stop rock and heavy metal in Neskaupsstaður (East Iceland). **July 10-13. einstaflug.is**

**LAUGAVEGUR ULTRA MARATHON**
The course takes runners through areas of outstanding natural beauty in South Iceland at the same time being a challenging trail for runners. **July 13. marathon.is/ultramarathon**

**LungA**
Art festival in Seydisfjörður in East Iceland. Workshops, lectures and other activities, ending in a weekend of celebration, exhibitions and concerts. **July 14-21. lunga.is**

**MEDIEVAL DAYS AT GÁSIR**
At Gásir in Eysta fjörður (North Iceland) a medieval trading village is re-created on a historical site, demonstrations in medieval crafts and games. **July 19-21. gasir.is**

**REYKJAVÍK MARATHON**
(42.2 km, 21.1 km & 10k). This event goes hand-in-hand with the Reykjavik Cultural Night. **August 24. marathon.is**

**THE GOLDEN CIRCLE CHALLENGE**
The Golden Circle Challenge is an annual cycling competition held in Iceland. There are 3 routes to suit both professional riders and beginners alike. The rides all start and finish at lake Laugarvatn. **August 31. gullhringurinn.is**

**THE NIGHTS OF LIGHTS**
The culture and family festival Nights of Lights is held every year in Reykjanesbær (near Keflavík airport). Art, theatre and music performed by groups and individuals. **Sept 4-8. ljósanott.is**

**REYKJAVÍK JAZZ FESTIVAL**
The festival celebrates the Icelandic jazz scene as well as featuring collaborative projects and international stars. **September 4-8. reykjavikjazz.is**

**REYKJAVIK INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**
RIFF is one of the foremost film festivals in Europe, placing emphasis on presenting progressive, independent cinema. **September 26-October 6. riff.is**

**OCTOBER**

**IMAGINE PEACE TOWER**
(Illumination)

**ICELAND AIRWAVES FESTIVAL**
Iceland Airwaves will be held for the 21st time this year. One of the best alternative music events on planet earth and takes place in Reykjavik and Akureyri (North Iceland). **November 6-9. icelandairwaves.is**

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

**THE CHRISTMAS VILLAGE**
This feast of sights and sounds in downtown Hafnarfjörður (Capital Region) offers live entertainment, beautiful handcrafted items and etc. **December 1-24. visithafnarfjordur.is**

**YULE LADS**
Unlike most countries that have a single Santa Claus, Icelandic children are fortunate enough to be visited by 13 Yule Lads. The Yule Lads can be visited in Dimmuborgir in North Iceland in December. **northeast.is**

**NEW YEAR’S EVE 10 K RUN**
Many participants dress up and run in costumes. Starts and ends infront of HARPA in Reykjavik at 12.00. **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. **December 31.**