

## 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**

### DARK MUSIC DAYS

Annual contemporary music festival in Reykjavík with the focus on performing and getting to know new compositions and performers worldwide. **January 26- February 2. [darkmusicdays.is](http://darkmusicdays.is)**

### WOW REYKJAVIK INTERNATIONAL GAMES

Athletes compete at a high level in various sports in world class facilities in Laugardalur in Reykjavík. **January 24-February 3. [rig.is](http://rig.is)**

## FEBRUARY

### REYKJAVIK 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. **February 7-10. [winterlightsfestival.is](http://winterlightsfestival.is)**

### ART IN THE LIGHT

The Art in the Light festival celebrates the return of the sun after a long winter by transforming Seyðisfjörður town (East Iceland) into a brightly lit hub of activity. **February 15-16. [listijosi.com](http://listijosi.com)**

### THE ANNUAL ICELANDIC BEER FESTIVAL

Kex Hostel's gastropub Sæmundur í sparifötunum in Reykjavík will offer a beer orientated menu and local breweries will introduce their products and methods. **February 21-23. [kexland.is](http://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 Reykjavík nightlife to create the ultimate recipe for fun.

**February 27-March 3. [foodandfun.is](http://foodandfun.is)**

### STOCKFISH FILM FESTIVAL

A platform in Reykjavík to encourage collaboration between domestic and international film communities. **February 28- March 10. [stockfishfestival.is](http://stockfishfestival.is)**

## MARCH

### RAINBOW REYKJAVIK WINTER PRIDE

Rainbow Reykjavík LGBT Winter Pride Festival combines amazing nature, nightlife and northern lights in fantastic international and local company. **February 7-10. [rainbowreykjavik.is](http://rainbowreykjavik.is)**

### ICELAND WINTER GAMES

Events ranging from ski- and snowboard competitions, to the Icelandic National Dog sledding championship. **March 22-24. [icelandwintergames.com](http://icelandwintergames.com)**

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

### DESIGN MARCH

For four days, Reykjavík plays host to hundreds of openings, exhibitions, workshops and events spreading across the city. The programme for the upcoming festival will be announced in February. **March 28-31. [designmarch.is](http://designmarch.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 3-7. [icelandwritersretreat.com](http://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 Eimskip Container Big Jump in downtown Akureyri. **April 4-7. [akx.is](http://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](http://childrensculturefestival.is)**

### ALDREI FÓR ÉG SUÐUR

Aldrei fór ég suður (I never went South) is a music festival held during Easter in Ísafjörður (Westfjords). The festival runs hand in hand with the Skiweek festival. **April 19-20. [aldrei.is](http://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 24-27. [bokmenntahatid.is](http://bokmenntahatid.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 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](http://sonarreykjavik.com)**

## MAY

### FOSSAVATN SKI MARATHON

Takes place in the Westfjords winter paradise, Ísafjörður. 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](http://fossavatn.com)**

### REYKJAVIK METAL FESTIVAL

An annual gathering of extreme music lovers in the heart of Reykjavík Iceland. **May 16-18. [reykjavikmetalfest.is](http://reykjavikmetalfest.is)**

### INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY

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

## JUNE

### REYKJAVIK 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](http://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](http://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. [hatidhafinsins.is](http://hatidhafinsins.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 2.**

### THE VIKING FESTIVAL

Since 1995 Viking village in Hafnarfjörður (Capital Region) has been a playground of Vikings demonstrating most aspects of Viking culture. **June 13-17. [fjorukrain.is](http://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](http://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](http://marathon.is/midnight-run)**

### SECRET SOLSTICE 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. [secretssolstice.is](http://secretssolstice.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](http://wowcyclothon.is)**

### REYKJAVIK FRINGE

Second edition in Iceland of the internationally known 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](http://rvkfringe.is)**

## JULY

### **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. [siglofestival.com](http://siglofestival.com)**

### **THORVALDSDALUR TERRAIN RUN**

The oldest terrain run in Iceland. The run is held early July each year in the Þorvaldsdalur Valley in northern Iceland. **July 6. [thorvaldsdalur.umse.is](http://thorvaldsdalur.umse.is)**

### **EISTNAFLUG**

Eistnaflug music festival – Three days of non stop rock and heavy metal in Neskaupsstaður (East Iceland). **July 10-13. [eistnaflug.is](http://eistnaflug.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](http://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](http://lunga.is)**

### **MEDIEVAL DAYS AT GÁSIR**

At Gásir in Eyjafjörður (North Iceland) a medieval trading village is re-created on a historical site, demonstrations in medieval crafts and games. **July 19-21. [gasir.is](http://gasir.is)**

### **REYKHOLT 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. [reykholtshatid.is](http://reykholtshatid.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 2-5.**

### **REYKJAVIK PRIDE**

Reykjavik Pride has been celebrated annually since 1999 and has blossomed into a colourful six day celebration, attracting over 100 thousand guests from all over the world. **August 8-17. [hinsegindagar.is/en](http://hinsegindagar.is/en)**

### **REYKJAVIK PRIDE PARADE**

Every second weekend of August, gays, lesbians and more, come out in force and style to parade and party in Reykjavik. **August 17. [gaypride.is](http://gaypride.is)**

### **ACT ALONE THEATRE FESTIVAL**

The festival is held every year in the town Sudureyri in the Westfjords of Iceland. **August 8-10. [actalone.net](http://actalone.net)**

### **FLOWER FESTIVAL IN HVERAGERDI**

The culture and family festival is held every year in Hveragerði. Interesting art shows and music is performed by groups and individuals. **August 16-18. [hveragerdi.is](http://hveragerdi.is)**

### **FIREWORKS SHOW AT JOKULSARLON**

Annual event by Jokulsarlon in the Vatnajökull Region. Illuminated icebergs bathed in colour from the magnificent firework show. **August 17. [visitvatnajokull.is](http://visitvatnajokull.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 24. [culturenight.is](http://culturenight.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](http://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](http://gullhringurinn.is)**

## SEPTEMBER

### **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. [ljosanott.is](http://ljosanott.is)**

### **REYKJAVIK JAZZ FESTIVAL**

The festival celebrates the Icelandic jazz scene as well as featuring collaborative projects and international stars. **September 4-8. [reykjavikjazz.is](http://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](http://riff.is)**

## OCTOBER

### **IMAGINE PEACE TOWER** (Illumination)

Outdoor work of art conceived by Yoko Ono in memory of John Lennon, situated on Viðey Island near Reykjavik. **Oct. 9-Dec. 8. Dec. 21-31. Feb.18. March 20-27. [imaginepeacetower.com](http://imaginepeacetower.com)**

## NOVEMBER

### **ICELAND AIRWAVES FESTIVAL**

Iceland Airwaves will be held for the 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://icelandairwaves.is)**

## DECEMBER

### **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](http://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. **[northiceland.is](http://northiceland.is)**

### **NEW YEAR'S EVE 10 K RUN**

Many participants dress up and run in costumes. Starts and ends in front of HARPA in Reykjavik at 12.00. **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. **December 31.**