

## Some things to do in Reykjavik if you have time

### Hallgrímskirkja Tower

Rising 244 ft Hallgrímskirkja is the tallest building in Iceland and for the best views of Reykjavik go up the lift to the bell tower. The three bells in the tower represent Hallgrímur, his wife, and their daughter who died young. Open 9-5pm



### Reykjavik 871 +/- 2

This museum is right next to Reykjavik Centrum Hotel and indeed the archaeological remains were found as a result of the hotel digging to create a car park! Needless to say the carpark never happened and instead the Reykjavik 871 +/- 2 museum was born sharing the oldest relics of Human Habitation in Reykjavik from before AD 871 +/- 2. The finds include a longhouse which is the focal point of the exhibition about life as a farmer in the Viking Age in Reykjavik. For those short of time it's worth a hours visit and is open 10-17pm every day.



### The National Museum

For those with a bit more time the National Museum of Iceland is highly recommended. It shares Icelands national heritage via over 300,000 artefacts and photographs which range from the original

settlers to Christian Chieftans, Norwegian and Danish Rule and right up to the current modern World. Opening hours are 11-5pm but closed on Mondays.



### **Outdoor Swimming Pools**

The Icelanders are almost obsessed with their thermal swimming pools. This is where they go to relax, chat and “shoot the wind”. If you want to do what Icelanders do then head for one of the 7 thermal pools in Reykjavik and become an observer as you sit in the hot tubs or steam baths that invariably accompany the pools. Opening times vary by pool so check with the hotel but they tend to be open from 8am till 5-9pm at night.



### **National Gallery of Iceland**

The National Gallery of Iceland main emphasis is on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Icelandic art, but international art is featured as well. The museum owns the most valuable collection of works by Icelandic artists in the country. The collection also includes an impressive array of works by internationally renowned artists such as, Pablo Picasso, Edward Munch, Karel Appel, Hans Hartung, Victor Vasarely, Richard Serra and Richard Tuttle. Opening Hours are 11-5pm except Mondays when it is closed.



### **Reykjavik Concert and Conference Centre**

Only just opened 5 months ago the Reykjavik Concert and Conference Centre overlooks the Old Harbour and indeed overhangs the water. For those interested in architecture this is a beauty worth a visit, but be prepared the old harbour is a working fishing harbour and not particularly attractive. The centre plans to hold daily performances. Refer to Hotel for performances during your visit.



### **Reykjavik Maritime Museum**

Iceland's past, present and future are intimately tied to seafaring. The Maritime Museum's exhibitions are insights into Iceland's relationship with the sea through the centuries. The main exhibitions illustrate the development from rowboats to modern trawlers and cargo vessels, as well as the construction of Reykjavik Harbor. Docked to a specially built pier alongside the museum is the Coast Guard Vessel Óðinn which participated in all three Cod Wars against Britain in the latter part of the 20th century. Opening hours are Tue-Fri from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m and weekends from 13 p.m. - 5 p.m. The Óðinn Vessel is closed in Dec and Jan.



## **Places to eat in Reykjavik**

You are almost spoilt for choice for restaurants in Reykjavik. Just head out of the hotel towards the main street Laugavegur and you will find many options – most of them offering fabulous fresh fish.

However if you are looking for something a bit different.

### **Icelandic Bar**

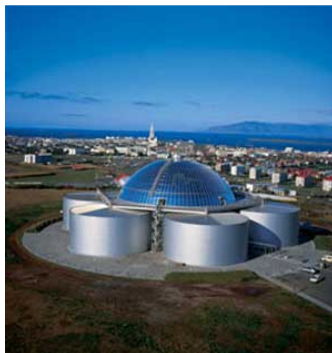
The Icelandic Bar, next to Hotel Borg, offers traditional Icelandic ware in an authentic laid back atmosphere with plenty of old style photos. On offer are Puffin, Reindeer and Minke Whale though

less controversial fish stews and lambs are also on offer. The Creamy Seafood soup is excellent and filling. Starters are @ 2,000 isk and main courses range from 3 – 4,000 isk.



### **PerlanRestaurnat**

The Perlan is an extraordinary restaurant built out of old water storage containers high up overlooking Reykjavik. The interior is light by 1900 Bulbs creating a dazzling interior, but the reason you eat here is for the 360 degrees view of Reykjavik which you will see during your meal as the floor turns slowly over a 2 hour period. Key Reykjavik buildings are flood light so it is still worth eating here in the dark. Menus are buffet and range from 7-9,000 isk per person – but even the locals say it is worth it! Reservation is a must and is via their website <http://www.perlan.is/>. Make sure to ask for a table by the window!



### **SeaFood Cellar Restaurant**

As you would expect from the name the SeaFood Cellar Restaurant specialises in fish, but also offers Lamb and Reindeer amongst others. This is a seasonal restaurant using the freshest ingredients that nature has to offer. Placing New Nordic at the front of the Kitchen main courses are @ 5,000 isk and starters at 2,600 isk. Set Menus are also available such as the 4 course menu for @8,000 isk. Reservations on [info@sjavarkjallarinn.is](mailto:info@sjavarkjallarinn.is) or 00 354 511 1212



## **Lækjarbrekka**

Lækjarbrekkais situated in the centre of Reykjavik and was originally built in 1834 as a residential home by an influential Danish ship owner and Merchant. Packed with atmosphere delicious food ranging from fish to meat to vegetarian is served. Not cheap with main courses priced between 4 – 6,000 isk and starters at 2,000 isk. Reservations can be made on 00 354 551 443 or [info@laekjarbrekka.is](mailto:info@laekjarbrekka.is)

