

# EVENTS IN ICELAND 2019

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.

### 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 25-27. [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 25 - February 4. [rig.is](http://rig.is)**

## FEBRUARY

### REYKJAVIK WINTER LIGHTS FESTIVAL

A culture festival that celebrates winter and light with multiple events. **February 1-4. [vetrarhatid.is](http://vetrarhatid.is)**

### WOW NORTHERN LIGHTS RUN

Fun run or walk through downtown Reykjavík where runners will see the city in new colours. You'll get illuminating merchandise throughout the event, making you a part of the entire show. **February 3. [northernlightsfunrun.is](http://northernlightsfunrun.is)**

### RAINBOW REYKJAVIK WINTER PRIDE

Rainbow Reykjavik LGBT Winter Pride Festival combines amazing nature, nightlife and northern lights in fantastic international and local company. **February 8-11. [rainbowreykjavik.is](http://rainbowreykjavik.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 16-17. [listiljosi.com](http://listiljosi.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 22-24. [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 Reykjavik nightlife to create the ultimate recipe for fun. **Feb. 28-March 4. [foodandfun.is](http://foodandfun.is)**

## MARCH

### THE REYKJAVÍK FOLK FESTIVAL

A three-day musical feast at Kex Hostel Reykjavík, celebrating the diversity and breadth of the Icelandic folk music scene. **March 1-3. [folkfestival.is/en](http://folkfestival.is/en)**

### STOCKFISH FILM FESTIVAL

A platform in Reykjavík to encourage collaboration between domestic and international film communities. **March 1-11. [stockfishfestival.is](http://stockfishfestival.is)**

### ORATION MMXVIII

Iceland's premier Black Metal festival, Oration, will take place for the third and final time at Gamla Bíó in Reykjavík.

**March 7-9. [orationrecords.com](http://orationrecords.com)**

### SÓNAR REYKJAVÍK

International festival of Advanced Music and new Media Art with attention in curation with newest trends in dance and electronic music.

**March 16-17. [sonarreykjavik.com](http://sonarreykjavik.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 15. [designmarch.is](http://designmarch.is)**

### DESIGN MARCH CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

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 15-18. [designmarch.is](http://designmarch.is)**

### ICELAND WINTER GAMES

Events ranging from ski- and snowboard competitions, to the Icelandic National Dog sledding championship. **March 23-25.**

**[icelandwintergames.com](http://icelandwintergames.com)**

### 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. **March 30-April 1. [aldrei.is](http://aldrei.is)**

## APRIL

### 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 5-8. [akx.is](http://akx.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 11-15.**

**[icelandwritersretreat.com](http://icelandwritersretreat.com)**

### EVE FANFEST

Presentations, tournaments, and developer roundtables in Reykjavík. Parties, pub crawls, and community camaraderie, gathering, vacation and experience. **April 12-14. [fanfest.eveonline.com](http://fanfest.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 19.**

### 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 17-22. [childrensculturefestival.is](http://childrensculturefestival.is)**

### 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.

**April 25-29. [fossavatn.com](http://fossavatn.com)**

## MAY

### INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY

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

### VAKA FOLK ARTS FESTIVAL

Folk musicians, dancers and crafts workers, rooted in the traditional folk arts of Iceland.

Akureyri, North Iceland. **May 30 - June 2.**

**[thjodlist.is/vakaen/vaka-2018](http://thjodlist.is/vakaen/vaka-2018)**

## 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 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 3.**

### THE FESTIVAL OF THE SEA

Family event held in Reykjavik on the weekend of June 2-3, down by Reykjavik west harbour Grandagarður (next to the Maritime museum).

**June 2-3. [hatidhafsins.is](http://hatidhafsins.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 9. [thecolorrun.is](http://thecolorrun.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 9. [mtesjaultra.is](http://mtesjaultra.is)**

### 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. **[www.17juni.is](http://www.17juni.is)**

### ARCTIC OPEN

International golf tournament which takes place in Iceland's northern capital Akureyri, in the light of the midnight sun. **June 20-23. [arcticopen.is](http://arcticopen.is)**

### 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 21-24. [secretssolstice.is](http://secretssolstice.is)**

### THE VIKING FESTIVAL

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

### WOW CYCLOTHON

Relay bike race where team members take turns cycling on Iceland's Ring Road in less than 72 hours. **June 26-30. [wowcyclothon.is](http://wowcyclothon.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 21. [marathon.is/midnight-run](http://marathon.is/midnight-run)**

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## JULY



### THE ICELANDIC HORSE COMPETITION

The first Landsmót was held at the Thingvellir National Park in 1950, and has since then grown into the full blown bi-annual country festival that it is today  
July 1-8. [landsmot.is/en](http://landsmot.is/en)

### 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 4-8. [siglofestival.com](http://siglofestival.com)



### THE COLOR RUN IN AKUREYRI

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.  
July 7. [thecolorrun.is](http://thecolorrun.is)



### 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 7. [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 11-14. [eistnaflug.is](http://eistnaflug.is)



### 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 13-14. [kexland.is](http://kexland.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 21-22. [gasir.is](http://gasir.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 14. [marathon.is/ultramathon](http://marathon.is/ultramathon)



### LungA

Art festival in Seydisfjörður in East Iceland. Workshops, lectures and other activities, ending in a weekend of celebration, exhibitions and concerts.  
July 15-22. [lunga.is](http://lunga.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 28. [braedslan.is](http://braedslan.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 27-29. [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 4-6.



### INNIPÚKINN

Innipúkinn music festival in Reykjavík is an indoor option for those not going for the happy-camper spirit during this Icelandic bank holiday party weekend.  
August 3-5. [innipukinn.is](http://innipukinn.is)



### SWAMP SOCCER

Takes place in Bolungarvík 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 3-5. [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.  
August 7-12. [gaypride.is](http://gaypride.is)



### PLAN-B ART FESTIVAL

Held for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in the small picturesque town of Borgarnes in the West Region of Iceland, only about an hour drive from Reykjavík.  
August 9-12. [planbartfestival.is](http://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 11. [visitvatnajokull.is](http://visitvatnajokull.is)



### ACT ALONE THEATRE FESTIVAL

The festival is held every year in the town Sudureyri in the Westfjords of Iceland.  
August 9-11. [actalone.net](http://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 18. [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 18. [marathon.is](http://marathon.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.  
August 31-Sept 3. [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 5-9. [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 27-October 7. [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 Reykjavík.  
Oct. 9-Dec. 8. Dec. 21-January 1.  
Feb. 18-19. March 20-27. [imaginepeacetower.com](http://imaginepeacetower.com)



### THE MOORLAND FESTIVAL

The Nordic House in Reykjavík will be filled with writers of children's books from far and near, children's literature enthusiasts and hundreds of excited kids.  
October 11-14. [myrin.is](http://myrin.is)



### CYCLE MUSIC AND ART FESTIVAL

International and local platform for contemporary art music and visual arts and the intersection between both disciplines. Takes place in Kópavogur (Capital region).  
October 25-28. [cycle.is](http://cycle.is)

## NOVEMBER



### ICELAND AIRWAVES FESTIVAL

Iceland Airwaves will be held for the 20<sup>th</sup> time this year. One of the best alternative music events on planet earth and takes place in Reykjavík and Akureyri (North Iceland).  
November 7-10. [icelandairwaves.is](http://icelandairwaves.is)



### EVERYBODY'S SPECTACULAR

Performance Festival in Reykjavík- produced by Lókal theater festival and Reykjavík Dance Festival.  
November 14-18. [spectacular.is](http://spectacular.is)



### ICELAND NOIR

Iceland Noir, Iceland's first festival of crime fiction takes place in Reykjavík 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-iocy.squarespace.com](http://iceland-noir-iocy.squarespace.com)

## DECEMBER



### CENTENARY OF ICELANDIC INDEPENDENCE

Iceland became a free and sovereign state on December 1 1918. The centenary will be celebrated all over Iceland.  
December 1. [fullveldi1918.is](http://fullveldi1918.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. [visithafnarfjorur.is](http://visithafnarfjorur.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 Reykjavík 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.

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