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

Dark Music Days
Annual contemporary music festival in Reykjavik with the focus on performing and getting to know new compositions and performers worldwide. January 25-27. 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

February

Reykjavík Winter Lights Festival
A culture festival that celebrates winter and light with multiple events. February 1-4. vetrarhatid.is

Wow Northern Lights Run
Fun run or walk 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

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

Art in the Light
The Art in the Light festival celebrates the return of the sun after a long winter by transforming Seydisfjörður town (East Iceland) into a brightly lit hub of activity. February 16-17. listiljós.is

The Annual Icelandic Beer Festival
Kex Hostel’s gastropub Sæmundur í sparrowtunum in Reykjavík will offer a beer orientated menu and local breweries will introduce their products and methods. February 22-24. 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. Feb. 28-March 4. foodandfun.is

March

The Reykjavik Folk Festival
A three-day musical feast at Kex Hostel Reykjavik, celebrating the diversity and breadth of the Icelandic folk music scene. March 1-3. folkfestival.is/en

Stockfish Film Festival
A platform in Reykjavik to encourage collaboration between domestic and international film communities. March 1-11. stockfishfestival.is

Oration Mmxviii
Iceland’s premier Black Metal festival, Oration, will take place for the third and final time at Gamla Bó in Reykjavík. March 7-9. orationrecords.com

Sonar Reykjavik
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

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

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

Iceland Winter Games
Events ranging from ski- and snowboard competitions, to the Icelandic National Dog sledding championship. March 23-25. 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. aldreii.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 Eismip Container Big Jump in downtown Akureyri. April 5-8. 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

Eye Fanfest
Presentations, tournaments, and developer roundtables in Reykjavík. Parties, pub crawls, and community camaraderie, gathering, vacation and experience. April 12-14. 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 Reykjavik Children’s Culture Festival. April 17-22. 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

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. thjoddist.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

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 Reykjavík west harbour Grandagarður (next to the Maritime museum). June 2-3. hatidhafsins.is

The Color Run in Reykjavik
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.com

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

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

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

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. secretsolstice.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

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

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
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JULY

THE ICELANDIC HORSE COMPETITION
The first Landsmot was held at the Thingvellir National Park in 1950, and has since then grown into the full blown bi-annual country festival that is today July 1-8. landsmot.is/en

FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL
Nineteen concerts held in Siglufjórdur town (North Iceland), with Icelandic and Scandinavian folk music as well as world music and folk dances. July 4-8. siglufestival.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

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

EISTNAFLUG
Eistnaflug Music Festival – Three days of non stop rock and heavy metal in Neskaupsstaður (East Iceland). July 11-14. eistnaflug.is

KEXPORT
KEX Hostel and KEXP Radio invite you to an outdoor marathon concert extravaganza from noon till midnight. Free concert with several bands and musicians. July 13-14. kex.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

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/ultramarathon

LungA
Art festival in Seydisfjordur in East Iceland. Workshops, lectures and other activities, ending in a weekend of celebration, exhibitions and concerts. July 15-22. lunga.is

BRAEÐSLAN MUSIC FESTIVAL
A renowned music-festival Braeðslan has been held in the old rendering house in Bakkagerði in Borgarfjörður eystrí (East Iceland). July 28. braeðslan.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. reykholtsmatid.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
Inniþúkinn music festival in Reykjavik 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

SWAMPSOCCER
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. myrarbolli.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

PLAN-B ART FESTIVAL
Held for the 3rd time in the small picturesque town of Borgarnes in the West Region of Iceland, only about an hour drive from Reykjavík. August 9-12. planbartestival.is

FIREWORKS SHOW AT JOKULSARLON
Annual event by Jokulsarlon in the Vatnajökull Region. Illuminated icebergs bathed in colour from the magnificent fireworks show. August 11. 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

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

REYKJAVIK MARATHON
(42.2 km, 21.1 km & 10k). This event goes hand-in-hand with the Reykjavik Cultural Night. August 18. marathoni.is

SEPTEMBER

THE NIGHTS OF LIGHTS
The culture and family festival Nights of Lights is held every year in Reykjanessbaer (near Keflavik airport). Art, theatre and music performed by groups and individuals. August 31-Sept 3. ljósanott.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

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

OCTOBER

IMAGINE PEACE TOWER

November

ICELAND AIRWAVES FESTIVAL
Iceland Airwaves will be held for the 20th 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

EVERYBODY’S SPECTACULAR
Performance Festival in Reykjavik- produced by Lókal theater festival and Reykjavík Dance Festival. November 14-18. spectacular.is

ICELAND NOIR
Iceland Noir, Iceland’s first festival of crime fiction takes place in Reykjavik 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-icy.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

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. visitafnafjordur.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

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

NEW YEAR’S EVE
With everyone taking part in the biggest fireworks 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