

Hi, I'm Gigi!

Think of me as your go-to friend in Iceland — only giving you honest recommendations, local, authentic and green. For over 15 years, my picky friends and I have tested and picked these spots that I now share with travellers like yourself who love to travel better!



Got a favourite spot we missed, or thoughts to share? Drop us a line. team@handpicked.is



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Uncover the hidden &
Create meaningful experiences.

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Illustrated by Elisabet Brynhildardóttir



Restaurants

Weekends get busy — book ahead!



1 Hlemmur Food Hall

Iceland's first food hall sprang to life in 2017 in the former bus terminal and remains a bustling culinary hub for adventurous foodies. Sit down at a communal table and enjoy thin-crust pizzas, authentic Vietnamese street food, Icelandic lamb, ice cream, and more. With so many options, you could easily spend a week eating here and never get bored. **Laugavegur 107 | 787 6200** hlemmurmatholl.is

2 Eiríksón Brasserie

The chef cooks what he loves, and it shows. The menu roams freely, from quality pizza to fresh fish, always built around quality ingredients. The truffle tagliatelle is something of a legend, and the seafood keeps travelers coming back for more. Come happy hour, the bright, modern space shifts into a bar worth planning around. **Laugavegur 77 | 419 1777** brasserie.is

3 Forréttabarninn

Sleek, stylish, and full of surprises. This newly opened restaurant fuses Italian and Japanese flavors together in a space that's as cool as the cocktails. Everything is made in-house, with a focus on quality ingredients, sustainability, and creativity. Enjoy a shared, ingredient-led approach. **Hverfisgata 44 | 454 9900** oto.is



pairings in a vibrant atmosphere by the harbor. And now they've opened a brand-new location on Frakkastígur, where they kick off the day with lunch and happy hour. **Nýlendugata 14 & Frakkastígur 8** **517 1800** forrettabarninn.is

4 Sumac

With two of Iceland's leading chefs at the helm serving feasts made with Icelandic seasonal ingredients immersed in spices from the Middle East and North Africa. Trendy and rustic looking space where an open kitchen with a coal grill and a big bar creates a vibrant atmosphere. **Laugavegur 28 | 537 9900** sumac.is

5 Kol Restaurant

A longtime favorite in Reykjavik, this cozy yet trendy spot is all about flavor, fire, and freshness. Steaks, fish, and lamb are grilled to perfection over charcoal, with the Iceland tasting menu featuring standouts like lamb fillet and salmon. Swing by on weekends for a bubbly, small-plate brunch or luxury vegan brunch. **Skólavörðustígur 40 | 517 7474** kolrestaurant.is

6 OTO restaurant

Sleek, stylish, and full of surprises. This newly opened restaurant fuses Italian and Japanese flavors together in a space that's as cool as the cocktails. Everything is made in-house, with a focus on quality ingredients, sustainability, and creativity. Enjoy a shared, ingredient-led approach. **Hverfisgata 44 | 454 9900** oto.is

Forréttabarninn (Appetizer + Bar) is a place to enjoy small or large plates. Expect flavors from Iceland and southern Europe twisted together in mouthwatering

7 Monkeys Reykjavík

A Japanese and Peruvian culinary fusion served a la carte in vintage aesthetics. Worldly wines pair with shareable plates for diverse, exotic flavors. Experienced chef Snorri Sigfússon masters Nikkei cuisine with exciting dishes like miso beef tenderloin and cod in sweet miso. And the desserts stay with your taste buds for life! **Klapparstígur 28 | 519 5350** monkeys.is

8 Chickpea

Vegetarian, street food style falafel bursting with flavors! Paired with authentic ingredients made from scratch. Preserved oranges, pickled onion, hummus, carrot pesto, kimchi, and sour-dough flatbreads to name a few. With a passion for true food, this family-owned restaurant / take-away is not to be missed. **Hallveigarstígur 11 | 776 5757** fb

9 The Icelandic Bar

Authentic Icelandic home cooking with a modern twist. Flatbreads, shark, salmon and lamb plus everyday meals like fish stew and an Icelandic take on burgers and hot dogs, like the popular lobster hot dog! Stocking one of the best selections of Icelandic brews and the ever-growing craze for Icelandic gin. Live music if you're lucky! **Ingólfsstræti 1a | 517 6767** islenkibarninn.is

10 Jómfrúin

For nearly 30 years, this family-owned establishment has been serving up authentic Danish smørrebrød—open-faced sandwiches piled high with rich flavor and tradition. Their knowledgeable staff is happy to guide your choice, ensuring a personalized experience. First-timers can't go wrong with the luxurious eight-dish platter, showcasing the venue's most beloved specialties. **Lækjargata 4 | 551 0100** jomfruin.is

11 Fish Company

Original stone-clad walls, subtle lighting, and wooden poles create a cozy but glamorous vibe. The most popular set menu, "Around Iceland", takes you on a journey using Icelandic seasonal ingredients leaving you with a culinary experience you won't forget. A perfect place for special moments. **Vesturgata 2a | 552 5300** fiskfelagid.is

12 Fish & Chips



Caught on their own boats and processed just steps away, the fish here goes straight from sea to fryer—thanks to four generations of family know-how. What began as a food truck in 2015 now serves award-winning fish & chips with malt vinegar, mushy peas, and hot curry sauce in a renovated, former fishing shed at Reykjavik's Old Harbor, Grandi. **Grandagarður 19 | 840 4100** fishandchipsvagninn.is

13 Grandi Food Hall

Overlooking Reykjavik's Old Harbor, this food hall comes with an interesting view! The refurbished fish factory offers international cuisine from street food vendors and is a popular place to sample tasty, artisanal fare. Spacious and great for groups, it has extra seating right outside on the docks. **Grandagarður 16 | 787 6200** grandimatholl.is

14 La Primavera

Chef Leifur Kolbeinsson introduced Icelanders to fresh pasta back in 1993, and he is still at it. Set in the Marshall House where food and art coexist, expect

Northern Italian classics, harbor views, and seriously good local ingredients. A second location opened in 2021 on the fourth floor of Harpa Concert Hall. **Grandagarður 20 & Austurbakki 2** **519 7766** laprimavera.is

Bar & Bistros

Don't forget that the tap water is pure, free and drinkable!

15 Microbar



Ten years after kickstarting Reykjavik's craft beer movement, Microbar's colorful & creative vibe thrives. Founded by Gæðingur brewery, their 14 locally brewed on-tap offerings include guest beers and flights of 5 or 10 smaller glasses for the curious. Self-professed beer geeks serve you with passion. **Laugavegur 86 | 893 5960** gaedingur.beer

16 Vinstúkan 10 sopar – Wine Bar

A European-style neighborhood wine bar tucked into a cozy basement. Run by a passionate father-and-son duo, it offers a generous selection of European wines—natural, organic, and always interesting. Many available by the glass. The food? Italian-inspired small plates made with premium local ingredients. It's the kind of place you wander into for a glass and stay for the evening. **Laugavegur 26 | 547 2380** tiu-sopar.is



17 Veður bar / Café

A small gem! Favored for their cocktails and special editions of classic drinks. Veður (weather) created a twist on the Nordic Jólaglög, which was rated among the 10 best winter drinks in the world by The Guardian. For beer-lovers, they've got Iceland's best craft brews. **Klapparstígur 33 | 571 5215** vedurbarninn.is

18 Bingo Drinkery

Hidden above the Rainbow Street, this neighborhood bar feels like Reykjavik's living room. A relaxed vibe, craft beer on tap (don't miss the bestselling Bingo Pilsner), cocktails, and wine set the tone—plus board games and the occasional Bingo night. A second home for locals, and a lucky find for visitors. **Skólavörðustígur 8 | bingo.bar.is**

19 Daisy Cocktail Bar

Dim lights, brick walls, clinking glasses, and shareable plates set the mood at this intimate basement spot. With skilled bartenders and high-end cocktails—some featuring Icelandic spirits. Plus wines and beer on tap, it's perfect for date nights or lingering over good conversation with newfound Icelandic friends. Open 'til 3:00 a.m. on weekends. **Ingólfsstræti 8 | daisybar.is**

20 Jungle Cocktail Bar

Born from a shared love of good vibes and great-tasting cocktails, this second-floor, rustic-chic bar with high ceilings and big windows overlooking the main street was created by four passionate bartenders as Iceland's first cocktail-focused bar. Expect engaging service and playful cocktails as the mood flows from mellow to full-on party. **Austurstræti 9 | jungle.is**

Café / Bakery

As one of the safest cities in the world, you can often see babies sleeping in their carriage outside cafés or shops!



21 Kaktus Espresso Bar

Two women brought together by coffee, now running two of the most on-trend coffee spots in the city. They import their own dark roast directly from Italy, a deliberate choice in a city where light roast tends to dominate. Both locations will make you want to linger and the pastries give you every reason to. **Vitastígur 12 & Frikirkjuvegur 7 | 869 3030** kaktusespressobar.com

22 Café Kokka

Located above the renowned houseware store, Kokka, the owners are brewing coffee from a local roastery and offering quick and delicious eats. Homemade soups and sandwiches and handmade sweet treats are baked on site. If you fall in love with the art on the walls or the trendy dinnerware, venture downstairs and make them yours! **Laugavegur 47 | 562 0808** kokka.is/kaffihus

Flip to see more



SKY LAGOON
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skylagoon.com

Café & Bakery

23 Brauð & Co — Organic Bakery

This hip and organic bakery is a testament to Icelander's love of bread. Emphasizing the simple, local and high quality organic ingredients whether it is a sour-dough bread or pastries. Their cinnamon roll is to die for and there is a good chance you might miss out if you arrive late.

Frakkastigur 16 | 776 0553
braudogco.is

24 Sweet Aurora Reykjavík

For those who enjoy sweet treats, this charming French pastry shop is a must. The delicacies from eclairs and cream puffs to macarons and more—are sourced from the best local ingredients. The outcome is both artistic and yummy! During the weekend try the special pastry which changes each week.

Bergstaðastræti 14 | 791 9169
sweetaurorareykjavik.com

25 Mokka Café

Serving coffee since 1958, Mokka was the first café in Reykjavík to introduce Icelandic bohemians to Italian espresso. Also famous for their mouth-watering house waffles. Still run by the same family, the unchanged interior, and ambitious art shows on the walls, makes it an icon in Reykjavík's culture scene.

Skólavörðustigur 3a | 552 1174
mokka.is

26 Grái Kötturinn Breakfast and brunch café

A Reykjavík landmark destination with loyal customers who seek classic morning dishes of bacon & eggs, pancakes, and a variety of "badass" bagels done to perfection. A small but larger-than-life

breakfast hotspot in the heart of the city. Open from 8.00 - 14.00.
Hiverfisgata 16a | 551 1544
graikotturinn.is

27 Hygge — Café & Micro Bakery

A cozy neighborhood bakery and coffee shop, known for its artisanal coffee, handcrafted pastries, and fresh savory bites. Since it opened in 2022, it's been a local favorite—baking from scratch each day using high-quality ingredients. Inspired by the Danish concept of comfort and contentment, it's a warm, welcoming space where you can savor life's simple pleasures. In 2025 they also opened up in Barónsstíg.

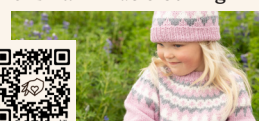
Seljavegur 2 & Barónsstígur 6
777 3202 | hyggebakery.is

Fashion

The Icelandic lopapeysa (wool sweater) has kept the nation warm for decades



28 Born in Iceland by Emil & Lina — Kids clothing



Inspired by Icelandic heritage, craft, and storytelling, this mother of four created Born In Iceland, her own brand, among other curated finds. Bringing trolls, whales, and Vikings to life through comfy clothes made from organic, illustrated cotton, with matching storybooks. You'll also

find the best collection of hand-knitted Icelandic wool sweaters for kids, crafted by local women and signed by the maker.

Laugavegur 53b | 552 3737
emiloglina.is

29 Farmers & Friends

One of Iceland's favorite brands, Farmers Market blends farmstead charm with city style. Founded 20 years ago by a creative couple, focusing on sustainability, craftsmanship, and natural fabrics. In their two lifestyle stores, you'll find pieces for the whole family—from heritage-inspired sweaters to cozy wool socks and even jazz records by the founder.

Hólmaslóð 2 (Grandi) &
Laugavegur 37 | 552 1960
farmersmarket.is

30 Herrafataverzlun Kormáks & Skjaldar

The trendsetters that keep Reykjavík's men and women looking sharp. Home to many heritage brands like Barbour and Filson, they also have their own line of clothing. Suits, caps, slippers, bags and more using their own sustainable and pure Icelandic Tweed. They've even bottled Iceland—literally—with fragrances named Pingvellir and Gullfoss!

Laugavegur 29 | 511 1817
kormakurogskjoldur.is

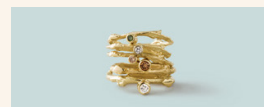
31 Thomsen Reykjavík

A new brand on the scene, created by a seasoned Icelandic fashion duo, blending fine tailoring with Nordic ease. From socks to made-to-measure suits for men and women, every piece is crafted with care, comfort, and longevity in mind. Smell the signature scent—and enjoy their original music playing softly in the background.

Tryggvagata 21 | 517-3700
thomsenrvk.is

Design & Craft

32 Prakt Jewelry



Meet the acclaimed goldsmithing couple, known for melding their distinctly different styles, handcrafted in their in-store jewelry workshop. Fused with wild Icelandic nature, clean geometry, and raw textures, only using the finest metals and stones. Add a personal edge to your look with the Zodiac Sign collection or the rugged and popular Lava design.

Laugavegur 82 | 551 1505 | prakt.is

33 Hildur Hafstein — Jewelry

Bohemian spirit, raw beauty, and religious tranquility shape Hildur's jewelry, crafted in her tiny, enchanting boutique studio. Each piece—handmade in Iceland or Spain from natural gemstones, sterling silver, and gold—carries an elegant touch with organic edges. Timeless creations, designed to make you glow and nourish your soul.

Klapparstigur 40 | 777 1553
hildurhafstein.com

34 Kogga Ceramic

Kogga is Iceland's most revered ceramic artist and innovator in her field. The gallery/studio has, in time, become a fixture of downtown's history, being a part of it for more than 35 years. Her unique technique offers refined and beautifully designed ceramic bowls, coffee mugs, salt bowls and her signature glacier inspired eggs.

Vesturgata 5 | 552 6036 | kogga.is

35 Kirsuberjatréð

Run by a collective of eleven female artists, this design store features arts and handicrafts made from local, natural, and repurposed materials. Check out the handbags made of fish leather, radish paper bowls and jewelry made of driftwood. Browse unique upcycled creations, ceramics, music boxes, and more as you chat with the artists themselves.

Vesturgata 4 | 562 8990 | kirs.is

Art & Culture

One third of Icelanders read a book everyday.



36 Gallery Fold

One of the largest selections of Icelandic art under one roof. Founded in 1992 and still family owned, Gallery Fold hosts solo exhibitions and represents over 30 artists, while also being Iceland's leading auction house. Great selection of paintings, sculptures, and prints, shipped anywhere in the world.

Rauðarárstigur 12-14 | 551 0400
myndlist.is

37 Fótógrafi

The owner of this tiny studio is not only an excellent photographer with a quirky eye for his subjects—as his book about Reykjavík proves—but also a collector of cameras and photographic artifacts, all on display in his shop. His popular photos of Reykjavík moments and Icelandic travels make perfect souvenirs.

Skólavörðustigur 22 | 821 5600 | FB

38 RAF Gallery + Jewelry

Founded by two creative partners — a Polish designer who visited Iceland, fell in love with a local artist, and never left. Together they have built a space where you can enjoy rotating art exhibitions reflecting Iceland's vibrant creative scene, buy handcrafted amber jewelry, and explore the only children's art gallery in Iceland. All under one roof!

Laugavegur 10B | 783 2231
rafgallery.is

39 The Settlement Exhibition

A 10th-century longhouse, found in 2001 and preserved exactly where it stood, is the centerpiece of this underground journey from Reykjavík's first settlers to the present day. Multimedia and artifacts bring the story to life as the exhibition travels beneath the street and into Aðalstræti 10 — the oldest house in the city.
Aðalstræti 10 & 16 | 411 6370
borgarsogusafn.is

40 Reykjavik Maritime Museum

This is where Iceland's relationship with the sea gets the space it deserves. Exhibitions cover fishing heritage, ocean sustainability and the stories of the people behind the industry. The real draw is the Coast Guard vessel Óðinn, docked outside and open for guided tours most of the year.

Grandagarður 8 | 411 6340
maritimemuseum.is



Fun

Reykjavik and surrounding towns have 18 geothermally heated pools—and even more hot tubs!



41 Sundhöll Reykjavík — Pool



This legendary geothermal pool has warmed locals since 1937 and is a historical part of Iceland's intangible cultural heritage as defined by UNESCO. Swim indoors beneath classic architecture or head outside to the newer pool, then rotate between the hot tubs, sauna, steam room, and a cold plunge. Need some thrill? Try one of the diving boards.

Barónstígur 45a | 411 5350

42 Your Friend in Reykjavík — Guide

Discover Reykjavík and Iceland through the eyes of a local with small-group tours led by passionate Icelandic guides. From tasty food walks to folklore-filled strolls and private luxury experiences, each tour is rich in stories, flavor, and fun — offering a deeper, more authentic connection to the Icelandic culture.

Ingólfstorg | 655 4040
yourfriendinreykjavik.com

43 Elding Whale Watching

Immerse yourself in the extraordinary company of whales! The first whale watching company in Iceland, this EarthCheck certified family business with over 20 years of experience will take you from harborside to heaven-on-earth-on-the-ocean. Before or after your trip, enjoy their floating whale museum and grab a local souvenir.

Ægisgarður 5c | 519 5000 | elding.is

44 Lava Show

Ever seen real lava flow—indoors? Here you can get up close and personal with melting lava as it's poured over ice, simulating a volcanic eruption. Using real lava from the 1918 Katla eruption, this family-run experience blends heat, science, and storytelling. Upgrade to premium for a backstage tour and other treats.

Fiskilóð 73 | 553 0005
lavashow.com

Sights

45 Klambratún Park

46 Sculpture and Shore Walk

47 The Sun Voyager sculpture

48 Hallgrímskirkja Church

49 The National Theater

50 Harpa Concert Hall

51 The Parliament

52 City Hall

53 The old Cemetery

54 The Catholic Church

55 Þúfa — art piece

And beyond...

Find spots just a few minutes' drive from downtown — on our web or app.

The Handknitting Association of Iceland — 3 min

Pure Deli - Healthy food — 4 min

Kastalakkaffi - Café — 4.5 min

Cibo Amore Sandwiches — 5 min

Mossley - Street Food — 5 min

Sky Lagoon — 5 min

Eimverk distillery — 7 min

Silli Kokkur - bistro — 7 min

Spíran - Restaurant — 7 min

Hafnarfjarðar museum — 9 min

Sól Restaurant — 10 min

The Icelandic Horse — 10 min

Hvammsvík Hot Spring — 45 min



Leaving Town?

We've got you covered!



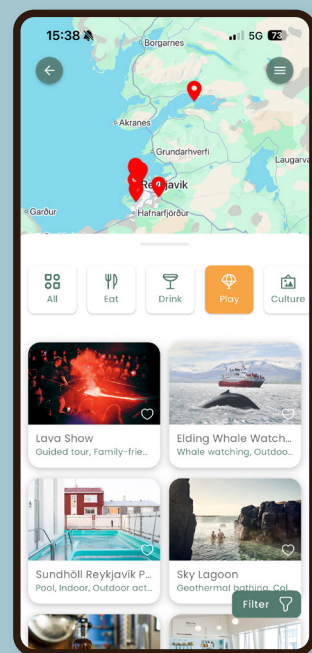
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Reykjavík

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