

EVENTS IN ICELAND 2018

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.

January 1

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 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 Reykjavik.

January 25 - February 4. rig.is

THORRABLOT

A midwinter festival offered to the gods in pagan Iceland of the past. The timing for the festival coincides with the month of Thorri, according to the old Icelandic calendar, which begins on the first Friday after January 19th (the 13th week of winter).

FEBRUARY

REYKJAVIK WINTER LIGHTS FESTIVAL

A culture festival that celebrates winter and light with multiple events.

February 1-4. vetrarhatid.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 Seyðisfjörður town (East Iceland) and landscape into a brightly lit hub of activity.

February 16-17. listiljosi.com

THE ANNUAL ICELANDIC BEER FESTIVAL

Festival passes will give people access to the festival where they can taste the festival beers and give an access to the people behind the beers.

February 22-24. kexland.is

MARCH

THE REYKJAVÍK 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 Bíó, Reykjavik, Iceland.

March 7-9. orationrecords.com

SÓNAR REYKJAVÍK

International festival of Advanced Music and new Media Art with attention in curation, combining a playful nature, the avant-garde, with newest trends in dance and electronic music.

March 16-17. sonarreykjavik.com

DESIGN MARCH

For four days, Reykjavik plays host to hundreds of openings, exhibitions, workshops and events spreading across the city.

March 15-18. designmarch.is

APRIL

AK EXTREME

AK Extreme is a four day festival with events scheduled at Mt. Hlíðarfjall and in downtown Akureyri. The main event is the Eimskip 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

EVE FANFEST

Presentations, tournaments, and developer roundtables. 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

ICELAND WINTER GAMES

Iceland Winter Games (IWG) is running into its 4th year, starting in 2014 as a single event, AFP world tour Freeskiing competition, with events ranging from ski- and snowboard competitions, to the Icelandic National Dog sledding championship.

April 23-25. icelandwintergames.com

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

VAKA FOLK ARTS FESTIVAL IN AKUREYRI

Enjoy the very best folk musicians, dancers and crafts workers, rooted in the traditional folk arts of Iceland, along with performers from the Nordic and countries of northern Europe.

May 30 - June 2. thjodlist.is/vakaen/vaka-2017

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 Reykjavik west harbour Grandagarður (next to the Maritime museum).

June 2-3. hatidhafsins.is

THE COLOR RUN

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

NATIONAL DAY OF ICELAND

Commemorating Iceland's independence on June 17, 1944. Colourful parades, street performances, games for kids and free outdoor music concerts lasting late into the evening.

View the full program on 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 where you'll be able to party at a time when the sun never fully sets in Iceland.

June 21-24. secretssolstice.is

THE VIKING FESTIVAL

Since 1995 Viking village in Hafnarfjörður has been a playground of Vikings demonstrating most aspects of Viking culture: Ships, cuisine, handcraft, storytelling, archery, games, music and battle demonstrations.

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

JULY

FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL IN SIGLUFJORDUR

Icelandic and Scandinavian folk music as well as world music and folk dances. 15-20 concerts are held in different location of the town.

July 4-8. siglofestival.com/english

THORVALDSDALUR TERRAIN RUN

The oldest terrain run in Iceland. It took place for the first time in 1994 and every year since. 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 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

MEDIEVAL TRADING WEEKEND

At Gásir in Eyjafjörður (North Iceland) a medieval trading village is re-created on a historical site, demonstrations in medieval crafts and games.

July 14-16. gasir.is

LAUGAVEGUR ULTRA MARATHON

The course takes runners through areas of outstanding natural beauty at the same time as being a challenging course.

July 14. marathon.is/ultramarathon

LungA

A festival in Seydisfjörður in East Iceland, that celebrates creativity, art and culture. Workshops, lectures and other activities, ending in a weekend of celebration, exhibitions and concerts.

July 15-22. lunga.is

BRÆÐSLAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

A renowned music-festival Bræðslan has been held in the old rendering house in Bakkagerði in Borgarfjörður eystri (East Iceland).

July. braedslan.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 is a 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. myrarbolti.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

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

ACT ALONE THEATRE FESTIVAL

The festival is held every year in the town Sudureyri in the Westfjords of Iceland. There is no entrance fee at the Act Alone Theatre Festival. 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

REYKJAVÍK MARATHON

(42,2 km, 21,1 km & 10k). This event goes hand-in-hand with the Reykjavik Cultural Night. August 18.

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

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 (Illumination)

Dedicated to the memory of John Lennon. Every year the Imagine Peace Tower emerges between Lennon's birthday and the day of his death.

Oct. 9-Dec. 8. imaginepeacetower.com

THE MOORLAND FESTIVAL

The Nordic House in Reykjavik 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

CYCLE MUSIC AND ART FESTIVAL

International and local platform for contemporary art music and visual arts and the intersection between both disciplines. October 25-28. cycle.is

NOVEMBER

ICELAND AIRWAVES FESTIVAL

This festival is fast gaining a reputation as one of the best alternative music events on planet earth to go to and garnering praise from the broadsheets and music magazines. November 7-10. icelandairwaves.is

LÓKAL THEATER FESTIVAL

Annual event in Reykjavik that introduces cutting edge theatre to audiences in Iceland and connects local theatre practitioners with fellow artists and presenters from abroad. November 14-18. lokal.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-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 in collaboration with universities, local government and the people of Iceland.

December 1. www.fullveldi1918.is/is/english

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 offers live entertainment, beautiful handcrafted items and some homemade Icelandic delicacies. December 1-24. visithafnarfjordur.is

YULE LADS

Every year the Yule Lads go in their annual bath in the Myvatn Naturebath where guests can join them and have some fun. The bath takes place two weeks before Christmas. northiceland.is

NEW YEAR'S EVE 10 K RUN

Many participants dress up and run in costumes. Starts and ends in front of HARPAN concert hall and conference centre at 12.00. December 31. 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.