

**Services**

■ **Useful Numbers**  
**Emergency number:** 112  
**Police:** 569 9000  
**Medical help:** 1770  
**Dental emergency:** 575 0505  
**AA:** 551 2010  
**Information:** 118  
**Telegrams:** 146  
 ■ **Tax Free Refund**  
**Iceland Refund,**  
 Aðalstræti 2, Tel: 564 6400  
 www.icelandrefund.com  
 ■ **Laundry Service**  
**HI Hostel,** Sundlaugarvegur 34,  
 Tel: 553 8110, www.hostel.is  
**Úðafoss,** Vitastígur 13,  
 Tel: 551 2301, www.udafoss.is

■ **Post Office**  
 Post offices are located around the city as well as in the countryside. The downtown post office is at Pósthússtræti 3-5. For a full list and info on opening hours visit www.posturinn.is.

Stamps are also sold in bookstores, gas stations, some grocery stores and tourist shops.

■ **Embassies and Consulates in Iceland**  
**United States,** Laufásvegur 21, Tel: 562 9100

**United Kingdom,** Laufásvegur 31, Tel: 550 5100

**Russia,** Garðastræti 33, Tel: 551 5156

**China,** Viðimelur 29, Tel: 552 6751

For a full list visit Ministry for Foreign Affairs: www.mfa.is/diplomatic-missions/icelandic-missions/

■ **Internet Access**  
 Most coffeehouses have wireless Internet access.

Computers with Internet connections are available at:

**Ráðhúskaffi City Hall,** Tjarnargata 11

■ **B5 Terminal,**  
 Vatnsmýrarvegur 10

**Ground Zero,** Vallarstræti 10

**The Reykjavik City Library,** Tryggvagata 15

**The National and University Library,** Armgrimsgrasa 3

**Tourist Information Centre,** Aðalstræti 2

**Icelandic Travel Market:** Bankastræti 2

■ **Opening hours**  
**Bars and clubs:** According to regulations bars may be open until 01:00 on weekdays and 05:30 on weekends.

**Shops:** Mon-Fri 10-18, Sat 10-16, Sun closed. The shopping centres Kringlan and Smáralind as well as most supermarkets and tourist shops have longer opening hours.

**Swimming pools:** weekdays 06:30-22:30, weekends 08:00-20:30 although some may be open an hour longer.

**The State owned ÁTVR liquor stores:** Mon-Thu 11-18, Fri 11-19, Sat

11-18. Banks in the centre are open Mon-Fri 09-16.

**Getting Around**

■ **Public transport**  
 The only public transport system in Reykjavik is the bus. Most busses run every 20 minutes and price per fare is 250 ISK for adults and 75 ISK for children. Complete route map at: www.bus.is. Tel: 540 2700  
 Buses run from 07:00-24:00 on weekdays and 10:00-24:00 on weekends

■ **Rent a bike**  
**Borgarhóli,** Hverfisgata 50,  
 Tel: 551 5653, www.borgarhol.net

**HI Hostel,** Sundlaugarvegur 34,  
 Tel: 553 8110, www.hostel.is

**Tourist Information Centre,** Aðalstræti 2, Tel: 590 1550,  
 www.visitreykjavik.is

■ **Taxi**  
**Hreyfill-Bæjarleiðir,**  
 Tel: 553 3500 or 588 5522

**BSR,** Tel: 561 0000

■ **For disabled travellers**  
**Reykjavik Group Travel Service,**  
 Brunastaðir 3, Tel: 587 8030, www.randburg.com/is/reykjavik\_group\_travel\_service/

A useful brochure, Accessible Reykjavik, can be found at tourist offices.

■ **Car rentals**  
**Átak Car Rental,** Smiðjuvegur 1,  
 Tel: 554 6040

**ALP,** Dugguvogur 10, Tel: 562 6060

**Avis,** Knarravogi 2, Tel: 591 4000

**Eurocar,** Hjallahraun 9, Tel: 565 3800

**A.G Car Rental,** Tangarhófi 8-12,  
 Tel: 587 5544

**Atlas Car Rental,** Dalshraun 9,  
 Tel: 565 3800

**Berg Car Rental,** Tangarhófi 8,  
 Tel: 577 6050

**Hertz,** Flugvallavegur, Tel: 522 4400

■ **Airlines**  
**Air Iceland,** Reykjavíkflugvöllur,  
 Tel: 570 3030, www.flugfelag.is

**Air Vestmannaeyjar,** Tel: 481 3255,  
 www.eyjaflug.is

■ **Bus Terminal**  
**BSÍ,** Vatnsmýrarvegur 10,  
 Tel: 562 1011, www.bsi.is

■ **Samferda.net**  
 A reasonable choice for the budget traveller. You log on to the website www.samferda.net, choose your destination and hopefully find a travel buddy to share the cost.

**The Icelandic College of Engineering and Technology,** Höfðabakki 9,  
 Tel: 577 1400, www.thi.is

**lönskólinn í Reykjavík,** Skólavörðuholti, Tel: 552 6240,  
 www.vr.is

**The University of Iceland – Department of Continuing Education,** Dunhagi 7, Tel: 525 4924,  
 www.edurmenntun.is

■ **Religious movements**  
 The national church in Iceland is the

www.ahus.is  
 ■ **Icelandic Travel Market**  
 Bankastræti 2, Tel: 510 5700,  
 www.kleif.is  
 Information on day tours, accommodations, car rental and everything else you need to know when travelling in Iceland.

■ **Iceland Visitor**  
 Lækjargata 2, Tel: 511 2442,  
 www.icelandvisitor.com

A travel agency offering travelling package trips and custom-made tours as well as car rental, day tours and accommodations for visitors.

■ **Tourist Information Centre**  
 Aðalstræti 2, Tel: 590 1550,  
 www.visitreykjavik.is

Offers information for tourists as well as providing internet access, booking service, a phone centre, money exchange service, tax refund and selling the Reykjavik Tourist Card. The Reykjavik Tourist Card gives admission to city busses, various museums, Reykjavik swimming pools, The Family Park and Reykjavik Zoo, The Culture House and the National and University Library.

■ **The Icelandic Tourist Board**  
 Lækjargata 3, Tel: 535 5500,  
 www.visiticeland.com

All information needed before travelling in Iceland.

■ **Goethe Institute**  
 Túngata 14, Tel: 561 5921,  
 www.goethe.de/island

A cultural institute that offers movie screenings, lectures and German language courses.

■ **Nordic House**  
 Sturlugata 5, Tel: 551 7030,  
 www.nordice.is

The Nordic cultural centre organises various cultural events, conferences and exhibitions.

All major tourist spots in Reykjavik also offer brochures, maps and information for travellers.

■ **Useful Information**  
 ■ **Where to learn Icelandic as a foreign language**  
**Icelandic on the Internet,** www.vefskoli.is

**Mimir Continuing Education,** Skeifán 8, Tel: 580 1800, www.mimir.is

**Námshólfur Reykjavíkur,** Frikirkjuvegur 1, Tel: 551 2992

**Fjölmenning,** Laugavegur 59,  
 Tel: 511 1319, www.fjolmenning.is

**The Icelandic College of Engineering and Technology,** Höfðabakki 9,  
 Tel: 577 1400, www.thi.is

**lönskólinn í Reykjavík,** Skólavörðuholti, Tel: 552 6240,  
 www.vr.is

**The University of Iceland – Department of Continuing Education,** Dunhagi 7, Tel: 525 4924,  
 www.edurmenntun.is

■ **Religious movements**  
 The national church in Iceland is the

Evangelical Lutheran Church. Masses are generally held on Sundays at 11:00 in churches all around the capital. Service in English is at Hallgrímskirkja every last Saturday each month, starting at 14:00. The Roman Catholic Church also has masses in English and Icelandic.

Other religious movements in Reykjavik are for example:

**The Muslim Association of Iceland,** Ármúli 38

**Ásatrú Association,** Grandagarði 8

**Bahá'í,** Álfabakka 12

**The Church of Evangelism,** Hlíðasmári 9

**The Icelandic Buddhist Movement,** Víghólastigur 21

**Reykjavik Free Lutheran Church,** Frikirkjuvegur 5

**Pentecostal Assembly,** Hátún 2

**Roman Catholic Church,** Hávallagata 14

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints,** Ásabrat 2

**Jehovah's Witnesses,** Sogavegur 71

**Seventh-Day Adventists,** Súðurhlíð 36

**Zen Buddhism in Iceland,** Reykjavíkurvegur 31

**Independent Church,** Háteigsvegur 101

**The Russian Orthodox Church in Iceland,** Sólvallagata 10

**The Cross,** Hlíðasmári 5-7

■ **Trade Unions**  
**The Icelandic Federation of Labour,** Sættún 1, Tel: 535 5600, www.asi.is

**The Federation of State and Municipal employees,** Grettisgata 89,  
 Tel: 525 8300, www.bsrb.is

**The Association of Academics,** Borgartún 6, Tel: 581 2090, www.bhm.is

**Efling,** Sættún 1, Tel: 510 7500, www.efling.is

**The Commercial Workers' Union,** Kringlan 7, Tel: 510 1700, www.vr.is

**Union of Public Servants,** Grettisgata 89, Tel: 525 8340, www.sfr.is

■ **Useful Websites**  
**www.visitreykjavik.is** (The official tourist website of Reykjavik)

**www.gayice.is** (Information about the gay scene in Iceland)

**www.fjolmenningarsetur.is** (The Multicultural Centre)

**www.hostel.is** (Hostel International in Iceland)

**www.vinnumalastofnun.is** (Public employment services)

**www.gulalinn.is** (The yellow pages)

**www.leigulistinn.is** (Rent a flat)

**www.ja.is** (Icelandic telephone directory)

■ **Where to get ...**  
**Work and residence permit:** The Directorate of Immigration, Skógarhlíð 6, Tel: 510 5400, www.utli.is

**Insurance and benefits:** The State Social Security Institute, Laugavegur 114-116, Tel: 560 4400, www.tr.is

**Icelandic citizenship:** Unless you

come from a Nordic country, foreign citizens have to have had an unrestricted residence permit in Iceland for at least seven years in order to get an Icelandic citizenship although some exceptions exist to that general rule. Applications are at the Ministry of Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs, Skuggasund, Tel: 545 9000, www.domsmlaraduneyti.is

**Unemployment benefits:** Directorate of Labour, Public Employment Service, Tryggvagata 17, Tel: 515 4800, www.vinnumalastofnun.is

**Icelandic social security number (kennitala):** National Register, Borgartún 30, Tel: 560 9800, www.hagstofa.is

**Driver's license:** Those who have a foreign license don't need an Icelandic one for the first six months. After that time you have one month to apply for an Icelandic driver's license. Applications are at police stations.

**Tax card:** Tax office, Laugavegur 166, Tel: 563 1100, www.rsk.is

**Rent subsidies:** Social Service Office, Tryggvagata 17, Tel: 411 9000 www.felagstjonustan.is

**Facts on Iceland**

■ Iceland is a constitutional republic with slightly more than 300,000 inhabitants. Reykjavik has been the country's capital since 1786 and today almost two-thirds of the population live in the greater capital area.

■ The 17th of June 1944 Iceland became an independent republic.

That day is the national holiday and is celebrated all around the country.

■ Alþingi, the national parliament, is the oldest assembly in the world, established at Þingvellir in 930 but restored in Reykjavik in 1844. The parliament is comprised of 63 members, who are elected by popular vote every four years. Icelandic citizens over 18 years of age have the legal right to vote.

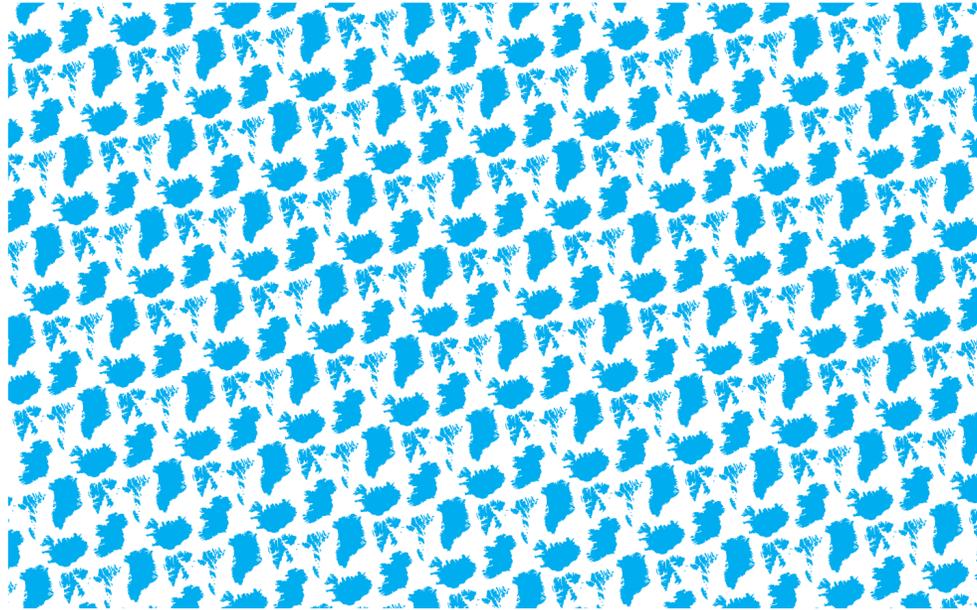
■ Parliamentary elections were last held in 2003 with 33.7 percent of votes going to the Independence Party. The Social Democratic Alliance got 31 percent, the Progressive Party 17.7 percent, the Leftist-Greens 8.8 percent and the Liberal Party 7.4 percent. The Independence Party and the Progressive Party formed a coalition and together lead the government.

■ Iceland has 12 ministers with the prime minister and head of government being Geir H. Haarde, who is also chairman of the Independence Party. The President of Iceland is Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, who has been in office since 1996. He is the Chief of State although his duties are mostly ceremonial.

■ Time Zone: GMT 0

■ Currency: Íslensk króna (ISK)

■ International Dialling Code: +354



*Five Classic Books About Moving to the North Atlantic*

Text by Ian Watson

*You know the story already: a comfortably off writer buys an old farmhouse in France or Italy, drags their sceptical spouse along, meets the eccentric neighbours, learns to cook with the local herbs, and writes a best-selling book about their new life. But what about the people who move north and west, not south? These five classic books tell of their authors' fascination with the North Atlantic, and the enthusiasm that made them leave their southern homes and come here to live... three Americans, one Austrian, and a young man from Togo.*

**Greenland – An African in Greenland By Tété-Michel Kpomassie (1981)**

Tété-Michel Kpomassie grows up in a good family in Togo, and one day discovers a book about Greenland in a used bookstore. With the adorably random obsessiveness of youth, he decides that he just has to go there. After several years of working his way north via Paris and Germany, he finally gets the right visa and reaches Greenland in 1964. He's a handsome and agreeable kind of guy, young Greenlandic women quickly fall for him, and his description of the sometimes casual, sometimes ritual promiscuity of Greenlandic life is riveting. Kpomassie drifts from village to

village, hosted by one family after the next. He is alternately exhilarated by the thrill of learning to ice-fish and drive a dog-sled, and repelled by Greenlandic isolation, drunkenness, underemployment, poor housekeeping, and village jealousies. After a year and a half, he returns to Paris, where he has lived ever since. Originally written in French, this book has been translated into many languages and has slowly become a real classic.

Available at Borgarbókasafn's downtown branch, or for less than a dollar from Amazon.com.

**Faroe Islands – Far Afield By Susanna Kaysen (1990)**

In the early 1970s, Susanna Kaysen accompanied her then-husband Jonathan Wylie to live for a year in the village of Skopun in the Faroe Islands, where Wylie collected material for his Ph.D. dissertation at Harvard University. Her book Far Afield, published twenty years later, fictionalizes their experience, even going so far as to write herself out of it. Though the novel falls slightly short of classic status, it is easy to read and one of the most accessible portraits of Faroese life in English. Kaysen is best known for her subsequent book Girl, Interrupted, which was made into a movie starring

Winona Ryder and Angelina Jolie. Wylie has also written several fine books about Faroese history and culture.

Get it from the Seltjarnarnes, Gerðuberg, and Seyðisfjörður public libraries, or for literally pennies at Amazon.com.

**Svalbard – A Woman in the Polar Night By Christiane Ritter (1938)**

A tiny hut on the snowbound northern coast of Svalbard was home to the Austrian couple Christiane and Hermann Ritter during the winter of 1933–1934. Christiane Ritter's superb book about her year in Svalbard came out just before World War II, and the German-language edition is still in print (Eine Frau erlebt die Polarnacht). She would not have come but for her husband, who had already made several trips to Svalbard, and she describes her ambivalence at leaving her civilized Central European life to keep house in the far north for her husband and his hunting and trapping buddies. Ultimately, she comes to love the Arctic, and her depiction of raw nature and isolated beauty is second to none. During World War II, Hermann Ritter's Svalbard experience landed him a job running a German weather station in Greenland. The station was discovered, and Ritter ended the war as an Allied prisoner

Not held by any Icelandic library, but used copies from Amazon.com cost \$4.

in Scoresbysund before returning to Austria, where he died in 1968 and Christiane Ritter in 2000.

Not held by any Icelandic library, but used copies are for sale on abebooks.com for about \$8. Easily available used or new in German.

**Iceland – Ripples from Iceland**

By Amalia Lindal (1962)  
 Amalia Lindal met her Icelandic husband when they were both students in Boston just after World War II. She came back to Iceland with him in 1949 and raised five children in Kópavogur. In between meals and diaper changes, she wrote – collecting her observations of Icelandic society into this book, and later editing a magazine called 65° Icelandic Life. Her prose is light and readable, her opinions forthright, sincere, and sometimes controversial. Twenty short chapters cover subjects like moving to Iceland, childbirth, home ownership, gender roles, class distinctions, alcohol use, motherhood, sex, religion, and Christmas. Forty-five years later, it is amazing to see both how much Iceland has changed, and how much Lindal's descriptions still ring true. Lindal's marriage broke up in 1971, she renounced her American citizenship when the Vietnam War put her sons under threat of the draft, and in 1973 she left Iceland for Canada, where she remarried and passed away in 1989. Get the second (1988) edition of the book, which includes an interesting epilogue.

Available at almost any Icelandic library, or on sale at Reykjavik bookstores for less than 400 ISK.

**Ireland – The Island of the White Cow By Deborah Tall (1986)**

A divorced Irish playwright comes to teach for a year at the English department of an American university. He falls for a pretty student named Deborah Tall, she falls for him, and he convinces her to run away with him after graduation to the island of Inishbofin off the northwest coast of Ireland. The book tells the story of their five years there, from 1972 to 1977. This was Ireland long before it got all those European Union development grants and slashed its corporate taxes to attract business. The islanders are fascinating, and make good company, but are (much like Kpomassie's Greenlanders) burdened by unemployment, alcoholism, remoteness, jealousy, and frustrated ambitions. The island lacks a good store, reliable telephone service, and a running water supply. Tall is forced to cast off most of her romantic notions of island life, but she gains wisdom from her hardship, and she writes beautiful prose. This book speaks to anyone who has ever dreamed of giving it all up and buying an old house by the green fields and stormy coasts on the western edge of Europe. Eventually, Tall and her Irish friend split up, and she returned to the United States, where she had a successful career as writer, editor, and teacher before her untimely death in 2006.

Not held by any Icelandic library, but used copies from Amazon.com cost \$4.

**VIÐTJORNINA**  
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Since 1986

Opening hours are from 18.00 every day.

Phone (+354) 551-8666.  
 Timplarasundi 3, 101 Reykjavik.  
 www.vidtjornina.is  
 vidtjornina@simnet.is

Don't miss **KISAN** when in downtown Reykjavik. A truly unique concept store carrying world known brands as well as local delights like the quality sweaters from **Farmers Market** – only place in downtown.

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Annick Goutal, Bonpoint,  
 Farmers Market, Orla Kiely, Sonia Rykiel,  
 Jamin Puech, Petit Bateau, Steiff ...

**DAAGBLAÐIÐ VÍISIR! 1960–2000**  
 AFTERNOON PRESS PHOTOGRAPHY IN ICELAND

15. September – 25. November 2007

LIÓSMYNDASAFN REYKJAVÍKUR  
 Reykjavik Museum of Photography

Tryggvagata 15, 6<sup>th</sup> floor - 101 Reykjavik - Tel. 563 1790 - photomuseum@reykjavik.is - www.photomuseum.is  
 Opening hours 12-19 mon-fri, 13-17 weekends - ADMISSION FREE

**Step into the Viking Age**

Reykjavík 871 ±2  
 Landnámssýningin  
 The Settlement Exhibition

The exhibition and museum shop are open daily 10–17

Aðalstræti 16  
 101 Reykjavík / Iceland  
 Phone +354 411 6370  
**www.reykjavikmuseum.is**

Experience Viking-Age Reykjavik at the new Settlement Exhibition. The focus of the exhibition is an excavated longhouse site which dates from the 10th century AD. It includes relics of human habitation from about 871, the oldest such site found in Iceland.

Multimedia techniques bring Reykjavik's past to life, providing visitors with insights into how people lived in the Viking Age, and what the Reykjavik environment looked like to the first settlers.

Reykjavik City Museum