

## ÁRNESSÝSLA HERITAGE MUSEUM



**Location:** Eyrargata 50, Eyrarbakki  
**Tel:** +354 483-1504  
**Website:** husid.com  
**Opening hours:** May 1-Sep 30: 11:00-18:00 and by appointment.



Eyrarbakki, a south coast fishing village, was one of Iceland's major ports during the time of Danish rule, and a cultural center for the whole region. Constructed in 1765, Húsið ('The House') is one of Iceland's oldest timber dwellings, and today the home of the Heritage Museum, whose collection spans the history of the Árnessýsla region and Eyrarbakki (also once a major bootlegging town), from farming and fishing implements, to one of Iceland's first pianos, a shawl made of human hair, and the 'King's Pot.' The museum also hosts art exhibitions and period music performances.

## SKÓGAR MUSEUM



**Location:** Skógar, 861 Hvalsvíllur  
**Tel:** +354 487-8845  
**Website:** skogasafn.is



**Opening hours:** Jun 1-Aug 31: 9:00-18:00,  
 May & Sep: 10:00-17:00, Oct 1-Apr 31: 11:00-16:00

Known not only for one of Iceland's most famous waterfalls, Skógar also boasts two noteworthy museums: the Skógar Regional Museum, which is among the largest and most popular museums in Iceland, and the Museum of Transport and Communication.

Skógar Regional Museum is the premier place to go to find out what life used to be like in South Iceland, including a 'village' of renovated local historical buildings, while the Museum of Transport tells the story from horse & cart to hydrogen bus.

## THE BOBBY FISCHER CENTER



**Location:** Austurvegur 21, 800 Selfoss  
**Tel:** +354 894-1275  
**Website:** fischersetur.is  
**Opening hours:** May 15-Sep 15: 09:00-11:00 and 16:00-18:00  
 and by appointment.



At the Bobby Fischer Center, located by Ring Road One, you'll find items related to the great chess genius Bobby Fischer on display. Bobby became world champion in Reykjavík in 1972 when he beat the Soviet champion Boris Spassky in 'The Game of the Century.' In his later years he settled in Iceland and a few hundred meters away from the center you can visit his grave, located at the Laugardællir cemetery. The center is also a community center for local chess clubs.

## ÞJÓRSÁ VISITOR CENTER



**Location:** Árnes community center, 801 Selfoss  
**Website:** thjorsarstofa.is  
**Tel:** +354 486-6115/664-6555  
**Opening hours:** Jun-Aug: 9:00-21:00,  
 Sep: for groups by appointment



Þjórsá Visitor Center is situated at the mouth of Þjórsárdalur valley in the rural Skeiða- and Gnúpverjahreppur region, an hour's drive from Reykjavík. One of its biggest attractions is a short film about Þjórsá, Iceland's longest river. Through interactive screens, graphic maps and pictures, the center provides information on tourism services, the nature, people and history of the region. This summer a new short film about the northern lights will also be screened there. Admission is free. The in-house restaurant serves Icelandic dishes and drinks, homemade bread and cakes.

## LÁ ART MUSEUM



**Location:** Austurmörk 21, Hveragerði  
**Tel:** +354 483-1727

**Website:** [listasafnarnesinga.is](http://listasafnarnesinga.is)

**Opening hours:** May 1-Sep 30: 12:00-18:00,  
 Oct 1-April 30: Thu-Sun: 12:00-18:00



The horticultural town of Hveragerði in Southwest Iceland is the surprising home of one of Iceland's most innovative modern art galleries.

Listasafn Árnesinga, LÁ Art Museum in English, has four exhibition rooms and a cutting-edge calendar of exhibitions, year round. Its reputation is spreading fast, so don't miss out.

Tours and literature are available in English as well as Icelandic. Entrance is free and the gallery also has a great café with comfy chairs and plenty of art books to read.

## GEOHERMAL EXHIBITION



**Location:** Hellisheiði Power Plant  
**Tel:** +354 412-5800

**Website:** [orkusyn.is](http://orkusyn.is)

**Opening hours:** 09:00-17:00, year round



Hellisheiði Power Plant is located just outside Reykjavík on Ring Road One, South Iceland. The facility is a striking example of how geothermal energy can be utilized in a sustainable manner and showcases geothermal's global role in a renewable and sustainable future. Experienced guides are available to talk with guests and answer their questions.

Guests can also enjoy refreshments at Café Energy and purchase locally-made gifts at the Iceland Design Gift Shop. Also, the exhibition's location in the Hengill geothermal area makes it an ideal starting point for exploring Iceland's nature.

## ICELANDIC PHALLOLOGICAL MUSEUM



**Location:** Laugavegur 116, Reykjavík  
**Tel:** +354 561-6663

**Website:** [phallus.is](http://phallus.is)

**Opening hours:** May 1-Sep 30: 10:00-18:00,  
 Oct 1-Apr 30: 11:00-18:00



Often touted as one of the world's most unique museums, the Icelandic Phallogical Museum has preserved specimens of penises from every mammal found in Iceland, and in the waters around the country—yes, even human. The museum may be eye-openingly quirky but it's no joke, as the study of phallogology has a centuries-long history. The impressive collection includes some foreign species, fish, and even mythical creatures. And in case you were wondering, yes, there is a gift shop.

## AURORA REYKJAVÍK



**Location:** Grandagarður 2, Reykjavík  
**Tel:** + 354 780-4500

**Website:** [aurorareykjavik.is](http://aurorareykjavik.is)

**Opening hours:** 09:00-21:00



The famous northern lights are one of Iceland's biggest attractions. Few natural phenomena attract the awe of both scientists and artists in equal measure. Aurora Reykjavík is a museum dedicated to the colorful explosion of solar wind against the earth's atmosphere. As well as giving you a fascinating insight into culture and legends surrounding the aurora, and tips on photographing them, the northern lights center also has an aurora theater so you can experience the lights all year round. Even when it's cloudy or when the summer sun shines all night.

## REYKJAVÍK CITY MUSEUM



**Location:** see website  
**Tel:** + 354 411-6300  
**Website:** [reykjavikcitymuseum.is](http://reykjavikcitymuseum.is)  
**Opening hours:** see website



This combination of top museums lets you explore what makes Reykjavík such a dynamic and inspiring city. For archaeology buffs, look no further than **The Settlement Exhibition**. To explore Reykjavík life, present and past, visit the **Reykjavík Museum of Photography** and for creative exhibitions devoted to the ocean's role in transforming Iceland over the ages, visit the **Maritime Museum**. **Árbær Open-Air Museum** takes you back in time with a charming collection of original houses. For those who love nature and outdoor art, the island of Viðey, a mere ten-minute boat trip from Reykjavík, is a paradise.

## REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM



**Location:** see website  
**Tel:** +354 590-1200 **Website:** [artmuseum.is](http://artmuseum.is)  
**Opening hours:** see website



Housed in three unique buildings across the capital, Reykjavík Art Museum maintains some of the most distinguished works of Iceland's artistic heritage. **Hafnarhús** houses the permanent collection of the works of Erró (1932-), one of Europe's most notable pop artists. **Kjarvalsstaðir** holds the works of one of Iceland's most influential and recognized artists, Jóhannes S. Kjarval (1885-1972), while the **Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum** displays the work of artist Ásmundur Sveinsson (1893-1982), one of Iceland's pioneering sculptors. Each museum also hosts a range of other exciting and diverse exhibitions, year-round.

## NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND



**Location:** Fríkirkjuvegur 7, 101 Reykjavík  
**Tel:** +354 515-9600  
**Website:** [listasafn.is](http://listasafn.is)  
**Opening hours:** May 15-Sep 15: Tue-Sun: 10:00-17:00  
 Sep 16-May 14: Tue-Sun: 11:00-17:00.



The National Gallery of Iceland has the most valuable collection of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Icelandic art, in addition to international art, including works by Pablo Picasso, Edvard Munch, Karel Appel, Victor Vasarely and Richard Serra.

The exciting new exhibition *Saga – Narrative Art* runs from May 22 to September 6, 2015, and explores the narrative in Icelandic visual art. It features works by Ólafur Elíasson, Erró, Steingrímur Eyfjörð, Helgi Þorgils Friðjónsson, Gabriela Friðriksdóttir, Sigurður Guðmundsson and Ragnar Kjartansson.

## WHALES OF ICELAND



**Location:** Fiskislóð 23-25, 101 Reykjavík  
**Website:** [whalesoficeland.is](http://whalesoficeland.is) **Tel:** +354 571-0077  
**Opening hours:** May 1-Sep 30: 9:00-19:00,  
 Oct 1-Apr 30: 09:00-18:00



With life-size models of 23 whales, including a killer whale, sperm whale, narwhal, humpback, minke and different species of dolphins—not to mention a 20-m (66-feet) long replica of a blue whale, the largest animal on earth—Whales of Iceland is the biggest whale exhibition in the world. To educate visitors about the whales which can be found in Icelandic waters, a biologist was assigned to create as-accurate-as-possible models of the marine mammals. Information about the different species can be found on signs and multimedia screens.

## HAFNARBORG

HAFNARFJÖRÐUR CENTRE OF CULTURE AND FINE ART



**Location:** Strandgata 34, 220 Hafnarfjörður  
**Website:** hafnarborg.is  
**Tel:** +354 585-5790  
**Opening hours:** 12:00-17:00, closed Tue, open til 21:00 on Thu

Hafnarborg hosts exhibitions exploring works by leading Icelandic and international artists, ranging from contemporary art to works by the pioneers of Icelandic art. This summer the museum presents two exhibitions: one on contemporary photography focusing on Icelandic nature in a subtle and poetic way, the other presents Icelandic ceramics. The museum also has a store with books and contemporary design products and a restaurant serving great value health food. Free admission. English tours on request.



## HAFNARFJÖRÐUR MUSEUM



**Location:** Vesturgata 6, 220 Hafnarfjörður  
**Tel:** +354 585-5780  
**Opening hours:** Jun 1-Aug 31: 11:00-17:00,  
 Sep 1-May 31: Sat-Sun: 11:00-17:00

Hafnarfjörður Museum is housed in various places around town. At Pakkhúsið, three exhibitions can be viewed, offering extraordinary insight into the region's history and rich heritage. Built 1803-1805, Sívertsen's House is the town's oldest and shows how an upper-class family lived in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Among other noteworthy buildings, the museum includes The Bungalow. Built in 1918, it was the residence of Scottish brothers Harry and Douglas Bookless, who ran a fisheries company in Hafnarfjörður in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Admission to the museum is free.



## DUUSHÚS – CULTURE HOUSE

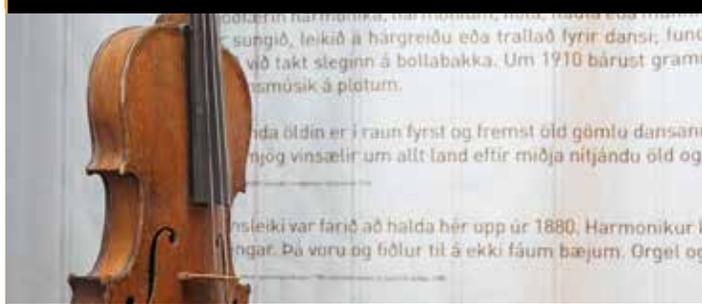


**Location:** Duusgata 2-8, 230 Reykjanesbær  
**Tel:** +354 420-3245  
**Website:** listasafn.reykjanesbaer.is/en  
**Opening hours:** Mon-Fri: 12:00-17:00,  
 Sat-Sun: 13:00-17:00

Housing the Reykjanes Art Museum, Maritime Center, Heritage Museum, Movie Hall and the Harbor House, Duushús is a museum experience catering to the whole family. Harbor House holds an exhibit of the peninsula's geological history, together with a tourist information center. For the younger generation we recommend a visit to our friendly neighbor Giganta in the Cave, a figure from Icelandic children's books by author Herdís Egilsdóttir. The small boat harbor, the boat on land, a cup of coffee, geology, art or history: it's all here.



## ICELAND MUSIC HISTORY MUSEUM



**Location:** Hábraut 2, Kópavogur  
**Tel:** +354 570-1693  
**Website:** tonlistarsafn.is  
**Opening hours:** Mon-Fri 9:00-16:00

The Iceland Music History Museum is a repository for manuscripts, photographs, audio recordings, musical instruments and other documents from "Iceland's thousand years," as the line in the national anthem goes. Rotating exhibitions, featuring materials assembled from the national archives and private collectors, fulfill the museum's mission of preserving and disseminating the musical history of Iceland. Featuring a personally guided tour (in English and the Scandinavian languages), exhibitions have covered subjects ranging from Sveinbjörn Sveinbjörnsson, composer of the aforementioned national anthem, to the Kópavogur punk scene of the 1970s and 80s.



## NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF KÓPAVOGUR



**Location:** Hamraborg 6a, Kópavogur  
**Tel:** + 354 441-7200 **Website:** natkop.is  
**Opening hours:** Mon-Thu: 10:00-19:00,  
 Fri: 11:00-17:00, Sat: 13:00-17:00



All nature lovers will find something of interest at the Natural History Museum of Kópavogur. With two distinct sections dedicated to geology and zoology, the museum broadly tells the story of how Iceland came to exist and what it is made of, and the story of the mammals, birds, fish and invertebrates that now call it their home, not to forget the weird and wonderful marímo, or 'lake balls.' This is also an active research center with a focus on aquatic ecology in its broadest sense.

## GLJÚFRASTEINN



**Location:** near Mosfellsbær  
**Tel:** + 354 586-8066  
**Website:** gljufrasteinn.is



**Opening hours:** Jun 1-Aug 31: 9:00-17:00,  
 Sep 1-May 31: 10:00-16:00, closed Mondays. Closed on week-ends Jan-Feb, Nov-Dec. Group tours available by appointment.

Gljúfrasteinn was the home of writer Halldór Laxness (Nobel Prize in Literature 1955) and his family. The house is now a museum, where the author's home is preserved just as it was when he lived and worked there. An icon to literature lovers around the world, Halldór Laxness is Iceland's most famous modern author and his fascinating—not to mention beautiful—house is just as he left it.

## AKRANES MUSEUM CENTRE



**Location:** Garðar, 300 Akranes  
**Website:** museum.is **Tel:** +354 431-5566  
**Opening hours:** Jun 1-Aug 31: 10:00-17:00,  
 Sep 1-May 31: 13:00-17:00



Akranes is only a 40-minute drive from Reykjavík. The museum area includes exhibitions about farming, housekeeping, the fisherman's life and social conditions in and around Akranes in times past. Boats and ships are on display and the museum offers information on sports in Iceland and Iceland's mineral kingdom.

Also part of the museum are the two Akranes lighthouses. The bigger one, which is currently in use, is open daily from 10:00-16:00. Visitors can observe the photography exhibition in the lighthouse and enjoy the view from the tower.

## THE SETTLEMENT CENTRE



**Location:** Brákarbraut 13-15, 310 Borgarnes  
**Website:** landnam.is  
**Tel:** +354 437-1600  
**Opening hours:** 10:00-21:00 all year



The Settlement Centre in Borgarnes is an hour's drive from Reykjavík. Its award-winning exhibitions highlight the settlement of Iceland as told through the sagas, and especially the saga of Viking poet Egill Skalla-Grímsson, who settled the region. Viewing each exhibition takes about 30 minutes and audio guides are available in 14 languages. Inside the center is also a restaurant, serving delicious meals at reasonable prices, café and gift shop. A visit to the center will add context to historical sites and make stories fall into place while traveling the country.

## SKAGAFJÖRÐUR HERITAGE MUSEUM



**Location:** Minjasafnið, Aðalgata 16b, 550 Sauðárkrókur  
**Tel:** +354 453 6870; 453 6173  
**Website:** [skagafjordur.is/byggdasafn](http://skagafjordur.is/byggdasafn); [glaumbaer.is](http://glaumbaer.is)  
**Opening hours:** Jun 1-Aug 31: 12:00-19:00



The Skagafjörður Heritage Museum is a center for conservation and research on local history and cultural heritage in the Skagafjörður district in North Iceland. Its exhibitions are located at Minjahúsið (the Heritage House) in Sauðárkrókur and the Glaumbær turf farm museum grounds. It includes four workshops: a carpenter's, a blacksmith's, a watchmaker's and a saddle maker's from 1909-1989. There are also special exhibitions and curiosities, such as a refurbished 1930 Ford Model A, and a mounted polar bear. Minjahúsið doubles as a tourist information center.

## DALVÍK HERITAGE MUSEUM



**Location:** Hvoll by Karlsrauðatorg, 620 Dalvík  
**Website:** [dalvikurbyggd.is/byggdasafn](http://dalvikurbyggd.is/byggdasafn)  
**Tel:** +354 460-4928/892-1497



**Opening hours:** Jun 1-Aug 31: 11:00-18:00,  
 off-season: Sat: 14:00-17:00 and by appointment

The museum's collection comprises thousands of items, mostly contributed by locals, including various tools and furnishings which provide insight into the daily life and history of the community. The natural history collection contains a large number of Icelandic sea birds and a huge polar bear. There are exhibits on famous people from the district, such as Jóhann Pétursson 'the Giant,' the tallest Icelandic man on record, and former President of Iceland Dr. Kristján Eldjárn. One room is dedicated to the 6.2 magnitude earthquake that struck Dalvík in 1934.

## ICELANDIC FOLK AND OUTSIDER ART MUSEUM



**Location:** Svalbarðsströnd, 601 Akureyri  
**Tel:** +354 461-4066  
**Website:** [folkart.is](http://folkart.is)  
**Opening hours:** May 16-Aug 31: 10:00-17:00



Only a 12 km drive from Akureyri, Safnasafnið – The Icelandic Folk and Outsider Art Museum is one of the most extraordinary museums in Iceland as the only one collecting folk and outsider art. Its collection numbers approximately 5,500 works. The museum has earned a reputation as a unique place in the Icelandic art scene. Every year, it exhibits 14 new combinations of artworks that emphasize the beauty that lies within all forms of creative work and expression. Admission is free for children under 14 years of age.

## THE OLD TURFHOUSE LAUFÁS



**Location:** Grenivík, 30 km from Akureyri  
**Tel:** +354 463 3196; 895-3172 **Website:** [akmus.is](http://akmus.is)  
**Opening hours:** Jun 1-Aug 31: 9:00-17:00  
 and by appointment



Laufás is a renowned church site and chieftain's residence from Iceland's earliest settlement. The house is a good example of a wealthy vicarage built from 1853-1882 and is furnished with household items and utensils from the period. One of Laufás's characteristics is the bride's chamber where brides prepared for the big event. At the visitor center there's information about the nature and history of the area, a souvenir and handcraft shop, coffee and cozy atmosphere to enjoy the picturesque countryside.

## AKUREYRI MUSEUM



**Location:** Aðalstræti 58, Akureyri  
**Tel:** +354 462-4162 **Website:** [akmus.is](http://akmus.is)  
**Opening hours:** Jun 1-Sep 15: 10:00-17:00,  
 Sep 16-May 31: 13:00-16:00



An interesting museum for the entire family, located in the historical district in a century-old garden with a beautiful 19<sup>th</sup> century church. Exhibitions include 'Akureyri the Town by the Bay,' which portrays 19<sup>th</sup> century life through objects and photographs, and 'Are You Ready, Madam President?' about the world's first female president, Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, a fearless trailblazer in both word and deed, surrounded by suit-clad officials. Also don't miss the interactive cartographer's room or the sea monsters in the 'Land Ahoy! – Historical Maps of Iceland 1547-1808' exhibition.

## AKUREYRI LITERARY MUSEUMS



**Location:** Various locations in Akureyri  
**Website:** [minjasafnid.is](http://minjasafnid.is), [akmus.is](http://akmus.is), [nonni.is](http://nonni.is)  
**Tel:** +354 462-4162; 895-3171  
**Opening hours:** See website



The unusual quality and quantity of writers' homes is a testament to the richness of Akureyri's culture, past and present. Nonni's House keeps a fascinating story of a 12-year-old boy who became a Jesuit priest and world-renowned author. Davíð's House is full of books, an art collection and personal articles of beloved poet and writer Davíð Stefánsson. The Matthías Jochumsson writer's home is dedicated to the author of the Icelandic national anthem and includes an exhibition of paintings by Harold Moltke of the northern lights from 1900.

## SVERRIR HERMANNSSON'S SUNDRY COLLECTION



**Location:** Sólgarður, 601 Akureyri  
**Tel:** +354 463-1261  
**Opening hours:** May 15-Sep 15: 11:00-17:00  
 and by appointment



A short drive from Akureyri is Sólgarður in Eyjafjarðarsveit, which boasts the unique private collection of late master house carpenter Sverrir Hermannsson. This collection of sundries doesn't fit into any specific category: it's not a historical museum, agricultural museum, appliance collection, household collection, nail collection, forging collection, or a key collection—but all of those rolled into one and much more. There's a cafeteria at Sólgarður where souvenirs can also be purchased.

## BUSTARFELL MUSEUM



**Location:** Bustarfell, 690 Vopnafjörður  
**Tel:** +354 855-4511; 844-1153  
**Website:** [bustarfell.is](http://bustarfell.is)  
**Opening hours:** June 10-Sep 10: 10:00-17:00  
 and by appointment



Here visitors can explore one of the best-preserved turf houses in Iceland. Walking through the museum is like stepping back in time, giving guests a fascinating glimpse into what Icelandic farming culture was like from 1770 to 1966. After touring the grounds, visitors can go on a one-hour hike to the nearby 'Fairy Stone,' the site of local folk tales. Croft Café, a restaurant located close to the museum, offers a variety of refreshments.

## EAST ICELAND HERITAGE MUSEUM



**Location:** Laufskógar 1, Egilsstaðir  
**Tel:** + 354 471-1412

**Opening hours:** Jun 1-Aug 31: Mon-Fri: 11:30-19:00,  
 Sat-Sun 10:30-18:00, off-season: by appointment



The East Iceland Heritage Museum has been diligently preserving and displaying the region's heritage since it opened in 1942. Today it incorporates a fascinating reindeer exhibition, because reindeer are found in no other region of Iceland and have therefore become a part of the local culture. The exhibition showcases the reindeer's nature, characteristics and survival; as well as their habitat, how and why they are hunted, and even the ways they have influenced local artists and designers.

## PETRA'S STONE COLLECTION



**Location:** Fjarðarbraut 21, 755 Stöðvarfjörður  
**Tel:** +354 475-8834  
**Website:** [steinapetra.is](http://steinapetra.is)  
**Opening hours:** May 1-Sep 30: 09:00-18:00



Petra's is a house that morphed into a museum thanks to a passion for collecting interesting minerals. As the house filled up, the garden became the focus of the collection. Today people visit Petra's from all over the world to see not only the thousands of attractive geological specimens, but also the beautifully-kept garden.

Everyone can appreciate pretty stones, but many claim to feel their energy, and some are even moved to tears by this remarkable collection.

## SKÓGAR MUSEUM

**Skógar Museum** was founded in 1949 and preserves the cultural heritage of South Iceland. The collection took place at the turning point in the history of the Icelandic nation. The old rural society was vanishing, a new culture was taking root. In reconstructions of old turf farmhouses visitors can see how the people of past times were living. In 2002 a large exhibition facility was built to house exhibits from the technological age that began in Iceland in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This new museum, The Museum of Transport and Communication, has a spacious cafeteria and a beautiful souvenir shop.

861 HVOLSVÖLLUR - Open 11:00-16:00 ( Winter ) / 09:00-18:00 (Summer)  
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