



**Alexis Averbuck** 

#### In This Book

#### QuickStart Guide

Your keys to understanding the city and its surrounds we help you decide what to do and how to do it



#### Need to Know Tips for a

Tips for a smooth trip



### Neighbourhoods & Regions

What's where

# Explore Reykjavík

The best things to see and do, by neighbourhood and by region



### **Top Experiences**Make the most

of your visit

Designing & Account Service of Control Info

### Local Life The insider's city

# The Best of Reykjavík

Highlights of the city and its surrounds in handy lists to help you plan



### **Best Walks**See the city on foot



**Reykjavik's Best...**The best experiences

# Survival Guide

Tips and tricks for a seamless, hassle-free city experience



#### Getting Around

Travel like a local



#### **Essential Information**

Including where to stay

Our selection of the city's best places to eat, drink and experience:



S Eating
Drinking

♠ Entertainment

Shopping

### These symbols give you the vital information for each listing:

Telephone Numbers

Opening Hours

P Parking

Nonsmoking
Internet Access

Wi-Fi Access

✓ Vegetarian Selection
⑥ English-Language

Menu

₱ Family-Friendly

Pet-Friendly

■ Bus ■ Ferry ■ Metro

Tram

☐ Train

### Find each listing quickly on maps for each neighbourhood and region:



## Lonely Planet's Reykjavík

Lonely Planet Pocket Guides

are designed to get you straight to the heart of the city. Inside you'll find all the must-see sights, plus tips to make your visit to each one really memorable. We've split the city and its surrounds into easy-to-navigate neighbourhoods and regions. and provided clear maps so vou'll find your way around with ease. Our expert authors have searched out the best of the city and its surrounds: walks. food, nightlife and shopping, to name a few. Because you want to explore, our 'Local Life' pages will take you to some of the most exciting areas to experience the real Revkiavík.

And of course you'll find all the practical tips you need for a smooth trip: itineraries for short visits, how to get around, and how much to tip the guy who serves you a drink at the end of a long day's exploration.

It's your guarantee of a really great experience.

#### **Our Promise**

You can trust our travel information because Lonely Planet authors visit the places we write about, each and every edition. We never accept freebies for positive coverage, so you can rely on us to tell it like it is.

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Old Harbour

Laugavegur & Skólavörðustígur

Golden Circle

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West Iceland

#### Worth a Trip:

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#### Welcome to Reykjavík

The world's most northerly capital combines colourful buildings, wild nightlife and a capricious soul to brilliant effect. The quirky Reykjavikers embrace their sense of community and bring a joy to life, creating captivating museums, cool music, and off-beat cafes and bars. Reykjavík is a superb base for touring Iceland's natural wonders: glacier-topped volcanoes, shimmering falls and blacksand beaches

Yacht marina at Harpa concert hall (p55)

# Reykjavík & Around Top Experiences

#### National Museum (p24)

Iceland's National Museum gathers together the country's most priceless artefacts, creating a trail of clues to life at Settlement and beyond. Peruse the finds and gain insight into the hardy hearts of Icelanders.



Whale-watching boats depart from Reykjavík's Old Harbour in search of the magnificent leviathans diving, jumping and spouting off Iceland's shores. You might spot minkes, humpbacks, fin whales and more, plus diminutive puffins.





#### Reykjavík 871 +/-2: The Settlement Exhibition (p26)

The modern era meets the Viking longhouse at this exhibition centred around Reykjavík's oldest ruins, and souped up with fun, fascinating space-age displays.

ARCTIC IMAGES/ALAMY ®

#### 10 Top Experiences

#### Hallgrímskirkja (p50)

The capital's iconic church perches atop the city centre and is visible for miles around. From the heights of its modernist steeple survey the broad sweep of the city, ocean and snow-capped mountains.



#### Gullfoss (p80)

Thundering layers of icy water cascade over tiered rock faces and down an impressively narrow gorge at Iceland's iconic Gullfoss. Literally 'Golden Falls', they, indeed, live up to their name when they sparkle in sunset light.





#### **Þingvellir** (p76)

The continental plates part at historic Pingvellir, the site of the original (outdoor!) Icelandic parliament. Waterfalls gush off the rift and ancient stones mark the earliest eras of Iceland's history.



#### Blue Lagoon (p70)

Wash away your cares at the ethereal Blue Lagoon, the flashiest version of Icelandic hot-potting. Set in otherworldly lava fields, with its vibrant geothermal turquoise waters, there's really nothing else like it.

#### Geysir (p78)

Iceland's impressive Geysir rises from a bubbling, hissing geothermal field surrounded by a contrasting lush valley. Like clockwork, one of the geysers makes a swooshing whoop as it shoots boiling water into the air.



### Snæfellsjökull National Park (p106)

With its wild beaches, multicoloured lava fields and glittering glacier crown, the Snæfellsjökull National Park offers one of Iceland's best escapes – either as a day trip from Reykjavík or as a relaxing long weekend.





#### Settlement Centre (p104)

Lively Borgarnes was the site of some of Iceland's most dramatic Saga action. Its Settlement Centre brilliantly recounts the country's discovery and settlement, as well as one of its most intriguing heroes, from Egil's Saga.



#### Jökulsárlón (p100)

A sparkling procession of luminous-blue icebergs shear off from Breiðamerkurjökull glacier and drift serenely through the 25-sq-km Jökulsárlón lagoon in ever-changing light, before floating by bobbing seals and out to sea.