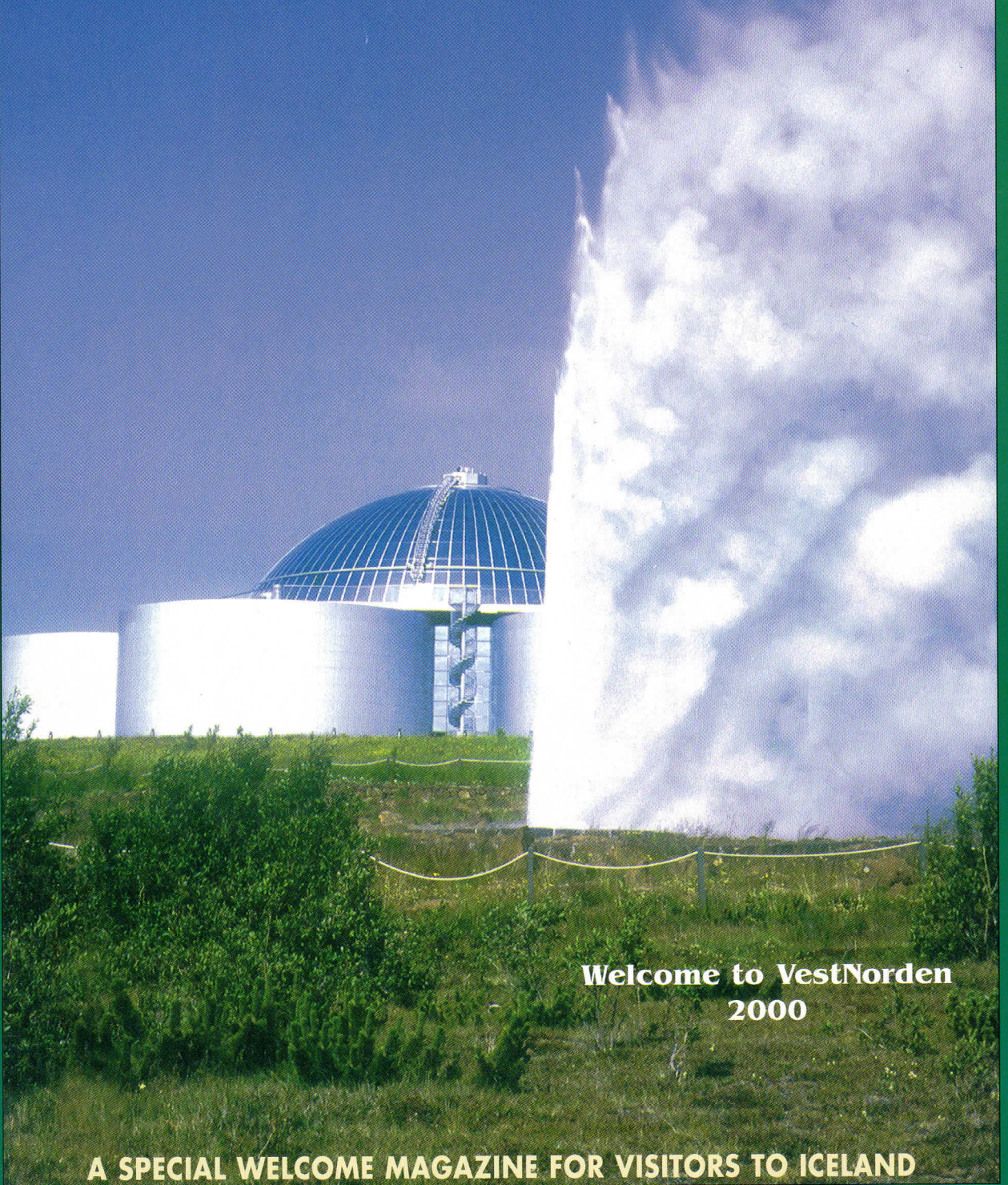


# *Iceland* **Explorer**

September 2000



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# Iceland Explorer



Well, technically I guess, the summer and the tourist season are over. Of course, you'd never know that by looking around. There are several conventions, business meetings etc, scheduled right through the end of the year and into 2001. There are also still plenty of visitors around as well. The "season" gets longer and longer every year. That's a good thing. Folks are discovering that Iceland is a great place to visit, year round. The VestNorden Travel Mart starts in just a day or so. There will be hundreds of exhibitors and buyers from all over the world participating, including Iceland Explorer. The event is not open to the public, but travelers worldwide will benefit greatly from the exchange of ideas and

discussions that will take place. Check out the article on our new tour called "Postcards From Heaven" both in the magazine and on our website at [www.explorer.is](http://www.explorer.is) I also want to thank you for all the great comments about the last issue we received via letter and E-Mail. The top three were "Waterfalls" then the cover of the magazine which was from the folks at MATS who are the best in the business and right behind that, the article on the Westman Islands. Enjoy this edition and look for a combined edition for October-November around October 10.

Bob Murray

## IN THIS ISSUE

ICELAND IS GREEN...AND  
GREENLAND IS...

THE LAST FISH "TAIL" OF THE  
SEASON

POSTCARDS FROM HEAVEN

...and, as always, the usual collection of  
news, flashes, commentary  
often written down at night, when I  
can't sleep

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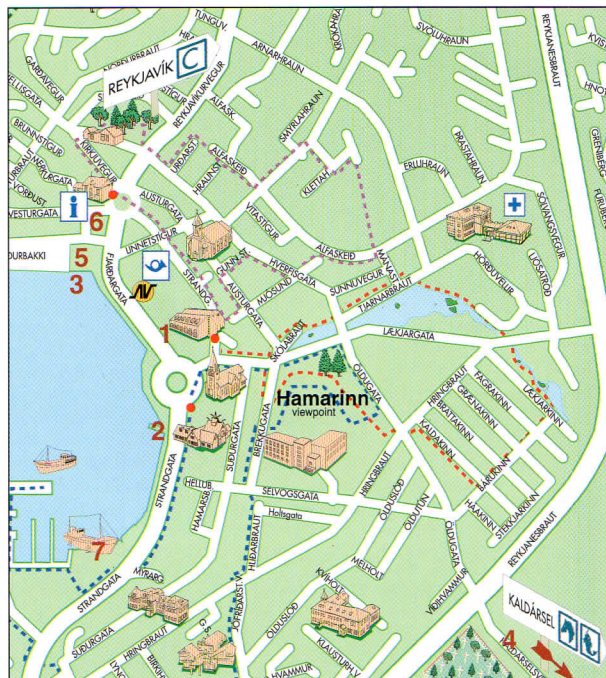
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# The Last Great Fish

## (Tail) of the Season!

BOB MURRAY

If you are the consummate fishing enthusiast and you've been saying to several friends, relatives and acquaintances to "let's all gather by the river" one more time, you'd better hurry. Many, but not all of Iceland's rivers and streams closed officially on September 1st for the season. There are still plenty of areas where you can have the time of your life during the month, but they will thin rapidly as the month progresses. The first thing you can "catch" is that license fees are now lower than at any time of the season. There is still some lake fishing as well. So, you might just want to know, "what's the catch"? Well, here we mean what might show up on the other end of the line.

Iceland's lakes produce an interesting assortment of brown trout, char and arctic char and do so right through September. There is Lake Þingvallavatn right near Þingvellir of course and closer to Reykjavik there is lake Kleifarvatn. Lake Kleifarvatn is interesting on a number of accounts.

First, the area is both barren and beautiful. Second and third, it is surrounded by picturesque rock formations, cliff and hills that look like mountains and at times what seems like 40 miles of bad road getting there. They were working on smoothing it awhile back and who knows, they might just pave portions, perhaps the whole thing in the months to come. Fourth, Kleifarvatn is one of the deepest lakes in Iceland, over 97 meters or a little more than 315 feet deep in some places. From a lake that deep, would naturally come a story from the depths.

According to legends, Lake Kleifarvatn is inhabited by a monster; aren't they all? Now, this creature has features that are rumored to be the size of a whale with a body that looks like a snake.

I don't know, I've never seen it, I don't really want to, but there are a few who claim they have. Unfortunately, the folks that claim to have seen, what shall we call it, "Kleifi", (that's a nice name) had left the camera at home on that day but just happened to have an ample supply of Loch Ness scotch with them at the time. Isn't that just about always how it is?



The deep-sea fishing season never really ends. Somehow, well for most of us, it can be a lot of fun to go out and actually catch dinner. As fall progresses forward the temperature has a tendency to progress downward and the wind speed upward. When that happens, sailing on the high seas, can mean really high seas, away from the protection of the land or the coast. The solution of course is a bigger boat. They are fewer in number the larger they get.

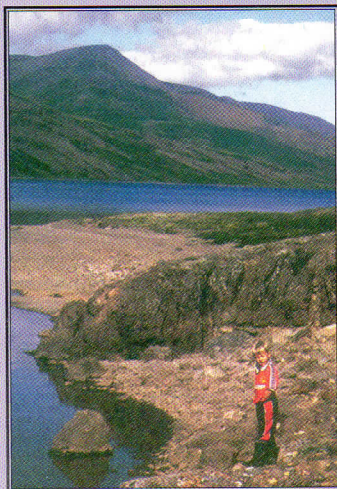
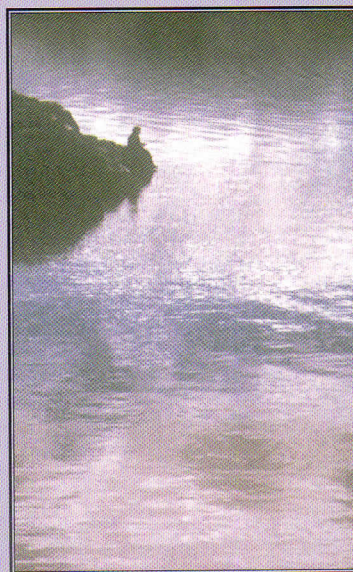
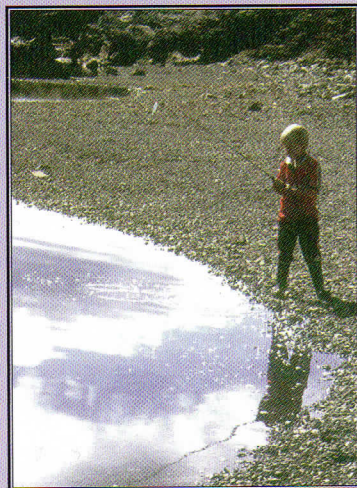
Where there is a will however, there is a way and Iceland has it all when it comes to the sport of fishing. There will be a lot of great days through the fall and the winter when you'll be able to head out to sea. The biggest problem will be finding a boat to take you there.

Enter the privately owned lakes, stocked and at the ready year-round. Now, every once in awhile, for short periods, it does occasionally get cold in Iceland. Not brutally cold mind you, but cold enough for protected lakes to freeze. When, perhaps I should say, if that happens, the fishing can still be quite good. Just drill a hole through the ice and press on. You don't have to bring a drill, the caretakers will do that for you. It's on these private lakes, like Reynisvatn just outside of Reykjavik, where singles or families can have equal amounts of fun.

Here the family can by a license and everyone gets to fish until you've caught five to take home.

The other lake is a place called Seltjörn, on the Grindavik road, not far from the Blue Lagoon. At this lake, you purchase a "day pass" and you can take up to five fish. What kind of fish? I almost forgot. Both lakes here are stocked with rainbow trout, need I say more.

So that will do it for the fish tails and the fish tales for the season. No matter what your pleasure be it fishing, any other sport you can think of, sightseeing or shopping, (also considered a sport by some folks I know well), you can find it in Iceland, most of the time, all year-round.



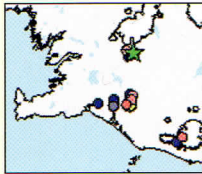
# ICELAND NEWS



## AUGUST 2000

### THIS JUST IN...SHAKEN NOT STIRRED:

Written on the way to the printer, this story...An earthquake, measuring 3.4 on the Richter scale, occurred Sunday evening at 9:29 PM, just 10.5 kilometers north of the Geyser hot spring. An aftershock of 1.9 was felt about a minute later. There had also been a 2.8 shock on Sunday afternoon. A total of 19 tremors were felt between Saturday and Sunday evening. Earthquake scientists DO NOT believe that this activity is the forerunner of another larger earthquake. We just wanted you to know. It will be interesting to see how Geysir and Strokkur react to this latest flurry of activity, so close to the geothermal field.



### "LEAPING LIZARDS BATMAN":

It was a damp, clammy, chilly, foggy night. You're all alone, as you walk slowly along Reykjavik's harbor, lost in a myriad of thoughts. Suddenly, out of the mist, right before your eyes, you see it, a monster from the deep. At about the same time, it sees you. What do you do?

Some women, maybe even a few men might let out a blood-curdling scream. The woman who actually witnessed the monster, a three-foot iguana, simply said, "cool", and called the police, fearing it lost and belonging to someone. "The Monster" was probably the same one used in the movie, 101 Reykjavik. At least we hope so. At any rate, it has since departed the planet.

### "HOT MEANS HOT"

A foreign tourist, ignoring the roped area and the signs that are everywhere in the Geyser hot spring area, received second and third degree burns to 10% of his body when the highly active geyser Strokkur erupted and splashed him with scalding hot water. The accident happened at 2:00 AM in the morning when this person was "sightseeing" with friends. The ropes were moved back a few meters when geyser activity significantly increased after the earthquakes in June. The roped area is still a minimal "safe distance" and the views are still the best in the world. For the record, when Strokkur erupts, the water is boiling. The signs are everywhere in the geyser field and they mean exactly what they say.



### WATER WATER EVERYWHERE:

The Skaftá River flooded twice during the month of August due to an ice meltdown in both the east and the west craters of the Skaftárjökull glacier. This river, about 100 KM east of the

town of Vik, was the same one that created havoc on highway one, the main road around Iceland about 18 months ago. Then, the road was closed for a time and the bridge completely washed away. A new, much stronger and higher bridge was built in short order and was not affected this time except for some great photography taken by tourists crossing the bridge over the River Skaftá. A strong smell of sulfur was noted by most who stopped. Most stops were of short duration.

### NO SALE:

The Hotel Valhöll will NOT be sold to a Monaco based millionaire to turn into a private summerhouse, or anything else as had been feared earlier in the month. The hotel is a part of the Þingvellir National Park and the rules of the Þingvellir Council prohibit it's conversion into anything other than what it is. Additionally,

according to a law passed in 1928, Þingvellir is protected as a sacred site of the Icelandic Nation and may never be sold or mortgaged. If the current owner of the hotel wishes to sell the property, he may do so but it must be sold to other Icelandic individuals or businesses. The state may also buy it.

### WHERE HAVE ALL THE FISHES GONE?

That seems to be the lament and song of some folks who have come to Iceland this year. Many local residents who have tried to fish the salmon rivers and streams this year, have met the same fate. The best yields of salmon have come from the streams and rivers in the southwest. Northern rivers and streams have had a remarkably poor year. The problem is being thoroughly looked into. It may require the closing of some of the streams and rivers for a "rest" in the season to come. Stay tuna-ed.

### AUGUST ACCIDENTS:

A private plane crashed just off the approach to the Reykjavik Airport. Four of the five people aboard the plane returning from the Westman Islands holiday celebrations were killed. The other person remains in the hospital, on a respirator, in critical condition. Right on the heels of this accident, a severe car crash claimed the lives of three persons in country. As in the plane crash, a fourth passenger in the car remains in the hospital, unconscious and on a breathing apparatus.



On Friday, August 18th, an Israeli woman fell 50 meters to her death at the Dettifoss, waterfall, in northeast Iceland. Iceland's attractions are very natural, very beautiful and for decades, very approachable with

appropriate caution at the waterfalls, geysers and geothermal "hot" areas. While dozens of signs and in many cases ropes are placed in areas that can be dangerous. The signs are there for a reason. Common sense MUST prevail in all instances.

A very large fire destroyed the Laser Tag game room in Grensas area of Reykjavik, and the CANTAT-3 undersea telephone cable severed somewhere between the Westman and Faroe Islands. This left Iceland without internet service for over four hours.

### "GO" WON'T

"GO" Airlines, the low fare budget subsidiary of British Airways, announced it would NOT be offering service to Iceland this winter. The last of the "GO" flights will be on September 27th between the UK's, Stansted Airport and Iceland. The service is expected to resume again in the spring of 2001.



The main reason cited was a lack of available aircraft. The planes had already been committed to flying people to alternate destinations such as many famous ski resorts. The news came, as somewhat of a surprise. Just about every available seat to and from Iceland all summer long was full. "Go Figure"!!

### MAJOR HOLLYWOOD PICTURE TO FILM IN ICELAND??

We keep saying that "ICELAND" is the new "HOT SPOT" for touring and travel in the world. Now, even Hollywood is taking notice. Paramount Pictures of tinsel-town, at last report, was in negotiations in the first part of August with Saga Film of Iceland to film a substantial portion of the predicted to be blockbuster film, "Tomb Raiders". The film is to star actress Angelina Jolie. Tomb Raiders is based on the Indiana Jones series video game about the adventures of Laura Croft. The guys will be happy Angelina may visit Iceland. The women all wish it would be Harrison Ford.



## Welcome to the VestNorden

Iceland Explorer Magazine would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of the participants, exhibitors, buyers, special guests and press to the VestNorden Travel Mart 2000. While the main focus is specifically on tour offerings in Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands, your hosts for this event, it gives all participants a great chance to meet and exchange ideas from every participating country. We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the next three days, sharing and exchanging ideas. We hope you will enjoy and take this special September edition of Iceland Explorer Magazine with you to share with folks in your home country. If you would like additional copies, of this or past editions, just be in touch. Our website is at [www.explorer.is](http://www.explorer.is)

Any other information you might need is on page three of the magazine. An Icelandic "Velkomin" to Austria, Belgium, Canada, The Czech Republic, Denmark, The Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greenland, Gronland, Italy, The Netherlands, Norge, Norway, Portugal, The Shetland Islands, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States.



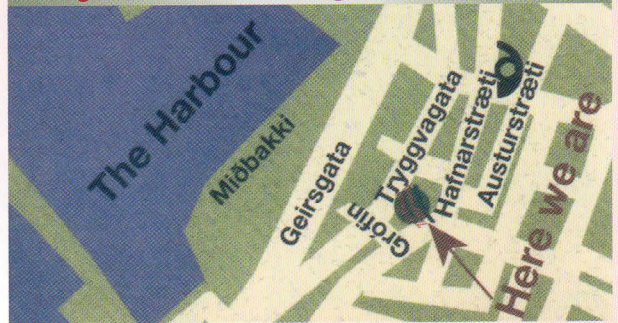
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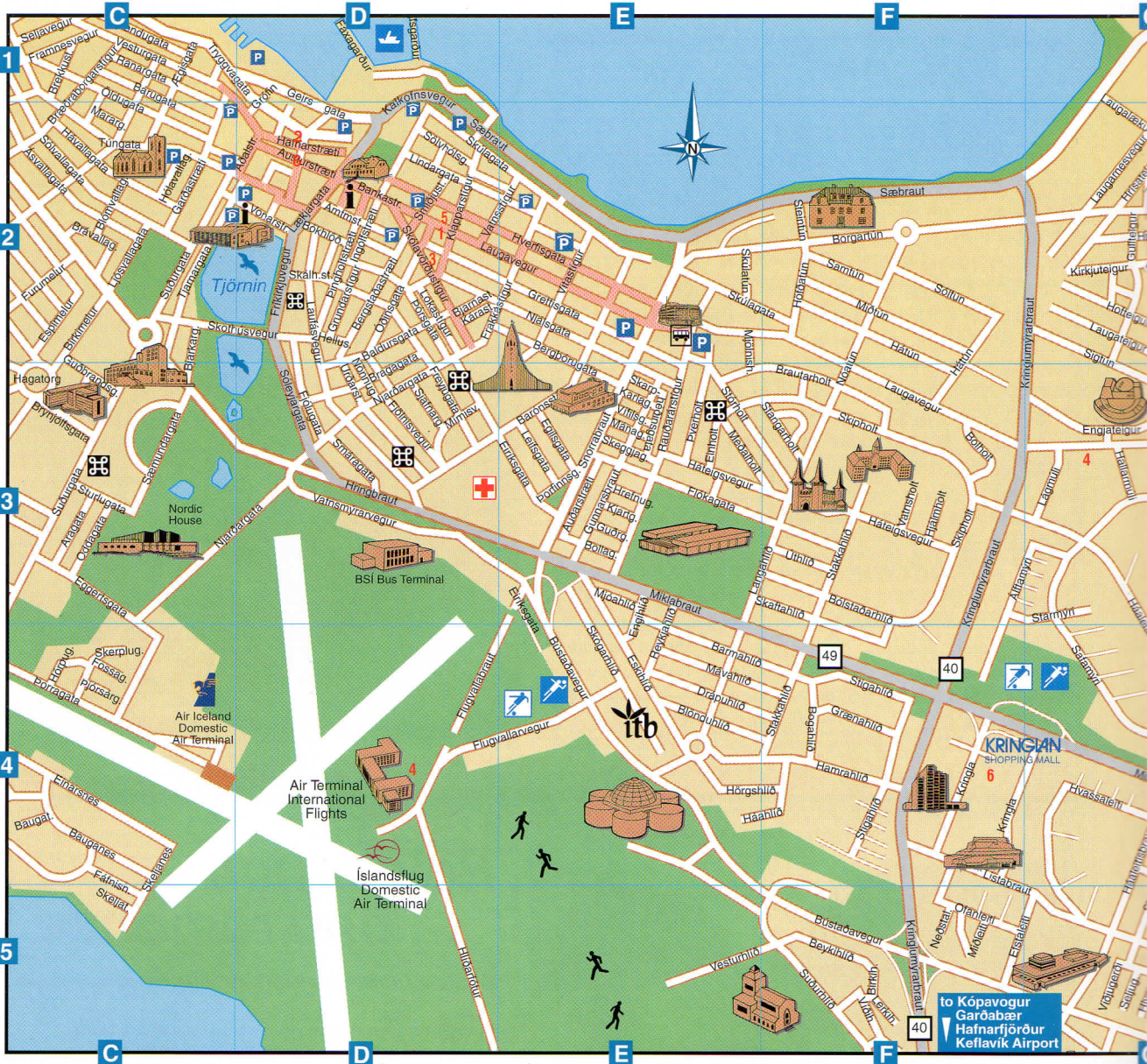
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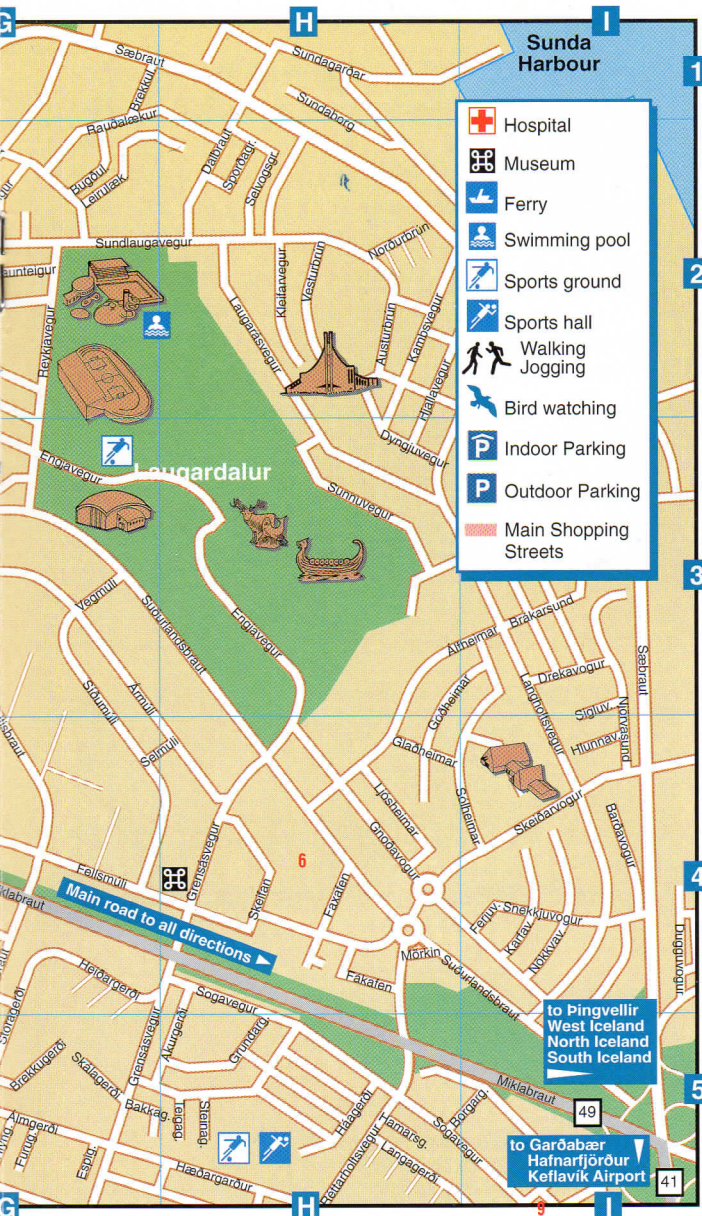
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### ALPHABETICAL INDEX to map, showing advertiser locations and other places of interest

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# September Songs



September officially marks the beginning of fall in the Northern Hemisphere. Here in Iceland, September 24 marks the moment we pass through exactly 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness. It seems that it gets dark a lot quicker as we're "falling into winter" than it does getting light as we're "springing into summer". In September, another thing that starts to fall is the temperature. Everything else is on the increase. These are things like wind, rain, and even a flake or two. Let's check out the sunrise and sunset tables first as we begin the month with 14 hours and 45 minutes of official daylight and by September 30, we are down to 11 hours and 30 minutes.



DAY & DATE:	SUNRISE:	SUNSET
Thu, Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2000	6:30 AM	8:23 PM
Tue, Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2000	6:45 AM	8:05 PM
Sun, Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2000	7:00 AM	7:48 PM
Editors Birthday	7:06 AM	7:41 PM
Sun, Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2000	7:20 AM	7:23 PM
Thu, Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2000	7:30 AM	7:10 PM
Sat, Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2000	7:37 AM	7:02 PM

## MWR TOURS: SEPTEMBER 2000

*NOTE: The tours listed in this section of the magazine all depart from the Tour Office located at the NATO Base in Keflavik and are for the personal assigned to the installation. Most of these tours are still available through the Tourist information Centers in Reykjavik. The tour operator will book them directly or the front desk of your hotel and guesthouse may book them for you as well. Some of the tours still have daily departures. Check with your hotel or guesthouse lobby or front desk for complete further information.*

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH & 23RD THE "GOLDEN CIRCLE" TOUR

We have described this tour often as the "must see" on any visit to Iceland of a few days or more. In recent weeks it has gotten better than ever because of the earthquakes that were in the distant vicinity. It has made the geothermal fields at geyser more active or stronger than ever. There are about five new bubbling pools and geyser might just surprise you. If not, Strokkur has renewed vigor and now erupts at times to over 75 feet. This tour also goes to the beautiful "Golden Falls" the site of the ancient parliament at Thingvellir. Stops also include, Kerith the volcanic explosion crater, Skalholt church with the beautiful tiled mural behind the altar and more. The final stop on the tour is at a place called EDEN in Hveragerði.



Each Icelandic fall, in addition to the temperatures that begin to fall, more rain falls, and even measurable SNOW can fall. I will make a BOLD prediction. I will bet that other than the possibly a few white snowflakes drifting in or being driven out of the sky due to colder temperatures at considerably higher elevations, I really doubt that we will see ANY measurable snow in September.

*Of course, I could be wrong...*

Ave. Temp.	46° F or 8° C	Yep, It's fall, ya'll
Max Temp.	64° F or 18° C	Break out the shorts, Mort
Min Temp.	23° F or -5° C	Put em back, Jack
Wind Direction:	Northeast	That sounds cold
Ave: Wind	16 Mph	An increase of ONE
Max Wind	93 Mph	Don't even ask
Ave Rainfall	4.4 inches	Do tell
Max Rainfall	10.0 inches	It's wet as h...eck



### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH ÞORMORK TOUR

It will be a long day but well worth it as you will travel to this natural "oasis" in the "interior" of Iceland. Getting there is half the fun, as the bus must cross about 10 unabridged rivers and streams. Suddenly, there it is, a natural green oasis, with trees and rich grass on the hillsides sitting right between two glaciers. It's also at this time of the year when the colors of autumn start to make their appearance in the area.

### FRIDAY — SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 — 17TH AKUREYRI — MYVATN WEEKEND TOUR

This tour gets the drive there done on Friday, as you will arrive at your guesthouse around midnight. After breakfast the next day, you'll get an early start to see Goðafoss, the Falls of the Gods, and on to incredibly beautiful Lake Myvatn and the sights of the surrounding area. This is a perfect time of the year to go where once again the colors of autumn should be out in near force. The tour also visits the dark castles of Dimmurborgir to the active "sometime" lava fields of Krafla. Sunday morning is free to sightsee or shop in the town of Akureyri or perhaps you might like to get a "BLUE NOSE" by taking a flight across the Arctic Circle to Grimsey Island.

### OTHER MWR TOURS IN SEPTEMBER

- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH  
DEEP SEA FISHING
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH  
THE REYKJAVIK SIGHTSEEING TOUR
- FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH  
A VIKING FEAST
- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH  
THE WEST ICELAND TOUR

# Iceland is Green & Greenland is...



Bo Lökkegaard

...Pretty nice actually. It all depends upon your frame of mind, the time of year you go, where in Greenland you go, and how it was you came to get there in the first place. I've managed two trips to Greenland in my life. The first was in 1972 when I was "hitching a ride" with a three-star general who was making the tour of his outlying bases while making his way back to Colorado Springs. During that time, I got to see Thule AB in the northwest corner of Greenland, far, far away from Iceland, actually, far far away from anywhere. It was mid-May. But I didn't forget that it was +19°F when we arrived in the late afternoon. We also stopped at Sondstrom, MUCH further south and really quite pleasant. Those were in the formative years of a military career. Make no mistake however; they did not have to force me to get on the plane, two hours later, at either stop.

Last year, I got the opportunity to go back, not to the far northwest part of Greenland this time and certainly not to a military base. This time I took a day trip on a commercial flight to the small village of Kulusuk. We saw how the villagers lived and worked and what they had to live and work with. I knew that in the summertime that many of the flights on this same tour were most often fully booked and I really wanted to know why. Now I know. Kulusuk Greenland was truly fascinating.



Bo Lökkegaard

Arriving on the gravel airport strip at Kulusuk and proceeding on foot along the road to the village, at first sight I felt like I had just crossed a portal in time and had gone back some 300 years. We are talking a very basic, but all the necessities of life here. There was a team of sled dogs in almost every yard, fish drying on clothes lines, and most of the houses in dire need of at least some repair and definitely a major coat of paint. In the center of the village was the "store" and it carried everything. There were small icebergs in the harbor inlet and the church on the hill right where

things like that are always supposed to be. What was most impressive was how friendly and genuinely happy the people were that lived here. Compared to us, they had only the essentials, (that included cable by the way) but little more. Be that as it may, they were all smiling, happy and I might add, quite healthy. They were very glad to see us "tourists" indeed looked forward to "the plane" or planes in the summer each day. In a sentence, a medieval fantasy island was the best way to describe it. If you've never been, you should really go. The "summertime" is highly recommended.



Bo Lökkegaard

There are any number of places to go, towns both large and small to have a great time in Greenland. But, you know what... If you've been watching the news lately and listened to all the so-called experts about everything, you might have seen the stories that the North Pole had melted...or moved, nobody seems to know which. Many say that the glacial ice is melting due to global warming, or maybe summer. So, maybe you ought to think about going sooner rather than later. Greenland really is a "cool" place to visit.

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# A New Tour from Iceland Explorer

## Postcards from Heaven

A magnificent photographic tour of many of Iceland's scenic and natural wonders.



This tour is available as a 5 or 7 day adventure. The five day tour includes a minimum of SEVEN of Iceland's most beautiful and majestic waterfalls. The SEVEN day adventure travels north and includes Europe's largest and most powerful waterfall, Dettifoss.

We recommend a minimum of 5 rolls of 36 exposure film for the five day tour and up to 8 rolls of film for the seven day tour.

### DAY ONE:

You arrive at the Keflavik International Airport in the early morning from the USA, or in mid-afternoon from Europe. Our reputation for specialized, personal service begins immediately as our representative is there to welcome all ICELAND EXPLORERS. You'll board our coach and taken to a refreshing "welcome breakfast" or a "spot of tea and cakes" and a complete briefing of the tours upcoming activities. From there you'll check in to your hotel or guest house for a short rest or to freshen up and then you'll be off on a tour of Reykjavik, Hafnarfjordur, (the town of the elves) and Bessastaðir, (The home of Iceland's President). There are no "waterfalls" this first day but there is a delicious evening meal and a good nights rest on this your first day in Iceland.

### DAY TWO:

The buffet breakfast begins the day, after which we head for Iceland's interior and the site of the ancient Icelandic parliament at Thingvellir. The Geysir fields are next, where Strokkur will erupt for us every few minutes. After lunch, we'll see our first waterfall of the trip. Magnificent Gullfoss, "The Golden Falls" will be ours to photograph from all angles. After Gullfoss, the fun continues with a stop at the waterfall Faxi just before arriving at the volcanic explosion crater at "Kerið". Here, weather permitting, we can journey to the bottom of the cone itself. We drive from there to Selfoss, where



we'll check into the hotel, have a nice evening meal and get ready for an early start the next morning. Tomorrow's itinerary promises that we'll see a minimum of "four" of Iceland's most beautiful waterfalls.

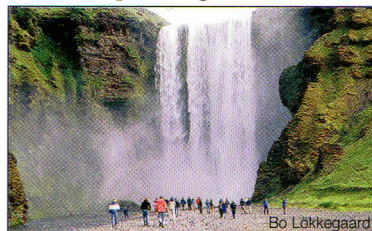
### DAY THREE:

Our day begins a little earlier than usual. After breakfast at the hotel, we board our coach and once again travel inland to the "double waterfall" Hjalparfoss. Then a short drive brings us to Iceland's



second highest waterfall, Háifoss. Heading back towards the main road we just might sneak a peak at Hekla, Europe's most famous volcano as well as

stopping by the waterfall Tröllkonuhlaup and be told the folklore behind the names. There are a couple of special photo stops just before we reach beautiful Seljalandsfoss, Iceland's magnificent fresh water waterfall cascading over sheer cliffs to a crystal pool below. Here you'll get a chance to walk a path right behind the waterfall for some



incredible pictures. Our last waterfall of the day will be the mighty Skógafoss along with a visit to the Skógar Museum nearby and a curator you will always remember. We then

head back to Reykjavik for an evening meal and a good night's rest. Tomorrow we head west.

### DAY FOUR:

Today, we head "over the river and under a fjord" as our Icelandic waterfalls adventure continues. Today, our journey takes us, North by Northwest as we view two more of Iceland's unique and very beautiful waterfalls. There are numerous photographic opportunities during the day, both before and after we view these falls. We'll go through beautiful Borgarnes. We'll stop at Reykholt, the museum and former home of Snorri Sturluson, Iceland's most famous Saga writer. Then, the falls, Children's falls or Barnafossar and the "mile long" Lava Falls, called Hraunfossar. They will captivate your imagination not to mention your complete attention. The journey back to Reykjavik through a mountain pass and around Whale Bay has several stops planned. One of those stops might just be for more film. See, !! we told you so.



### DAY FIVE:

The short version of this tour concludes today, with the morning free for shopping, a bliss lunch and then a dip in **Iceland's Blue Lagoon** before heading for **Keflavik International Airport** and your flight from Iceland. Those on the longer trip, will continue north to Iceland's northern capital, **Akureyri**, snugly nestled in it's horseshoe fjord. From Akureyri we continue on to **Goðafoss**, the "Falls of the God's" and then to **Lake Mývatn**, the black lava castles of **Dimmuborgir** and the often active **Krafla** lava fields. Dinner and overnight will be at an area hotel or guesthouse.

### DAY SIX:

Today begins where day five left off. It takes two full days, and rolls of film to see all the north's major photographic wonders. Each tour will vary slightly with weather and available daylight playing the dominant role. Today, **Ásbyrgi National park**, **Húsavík** and many other places of interest are on the schedule. The crown of the day will be a visit to Europe's most powerful waterfall, **Dettifoss**. From there we begin our journey back to Reykjavik. Today will be quite a long day and a good meal and restful night in the capital city will be most welcomed.



### DAY SEVEN:

Today leaves the morning free for some shopping after breakfast: Following that we'll head for a look, and a swim at one of Iceland's most talked about attractions, the magnificent natural hot pools of the **Blue Lagoon**. From there, we'll journey to the airport for our final good-byes with what has been a most incredible journey we like to call

**"Postcards from Heaven".**

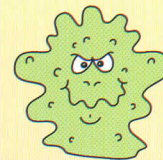
# HOT Flashes

HOT STUFF AS OF September 2000



### ICELANDIC RESEARCH TEAM FINDS CANCER GENE:

A team of Icelanders and other foreign scientists believe they have found a new gene that could be linked to breast cancer in women. The gene is yet to be isolated as this process continues.



The Icelandic team consisted of Rósa Björk Barkadóttir, Adalgeir Arason and Valgardur Egilsson. They are members of the University of Iceland's Institute of Pathology. The clinical side of the project was led by Óskar Thór Jóhannsson.

### MOBILE MANIA:



With a total of 278,717 listed as the total population in Iceland as of December 1st 1999, another interesting statistic has been introduced into the equation as of June 1st, 2000. That was the number of residents and Icelanders owning and talking on mobile phones. As with anything here in Iceland, when an idea catches on, it REALLY catches

on. Here are the numbers. Population, 278,717: Mobile Phones, 197,000 and rising: This means that nearly 71% of the entire population has at least one mobile phone. It has recently become fashionable to own two of them, one from each company. Finland was number one in mobile phone use. I really don't think they are any longer. Chalk up one more number one per capita for Iceland.

### KEIKO LIKES HIS PLACE, WANTS TO RENEW THE LEASE:

It appears that Keiko, the world's most famous whale, is taking a phrase right out of the Wizard of Oz, "there's no place like home" very seriously. As of late, his trainers and mentors at Ocean Futures have been taking him on excursions out to sea. There, he has "hooked up" with other pods of Orca, killer whales and they all seem to get along famously. The problem comes when he gets tired of all the fun and frolic. Instead of joining up with any of the pods, and heading off to wherever, he just swims back to the boat in the distance and essentially indicates that he is ready to go back to his home. Well, he does have a pretty nice place in a protected harbor and he's not paying any rent. Smart whale !!

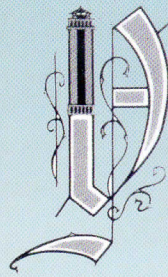
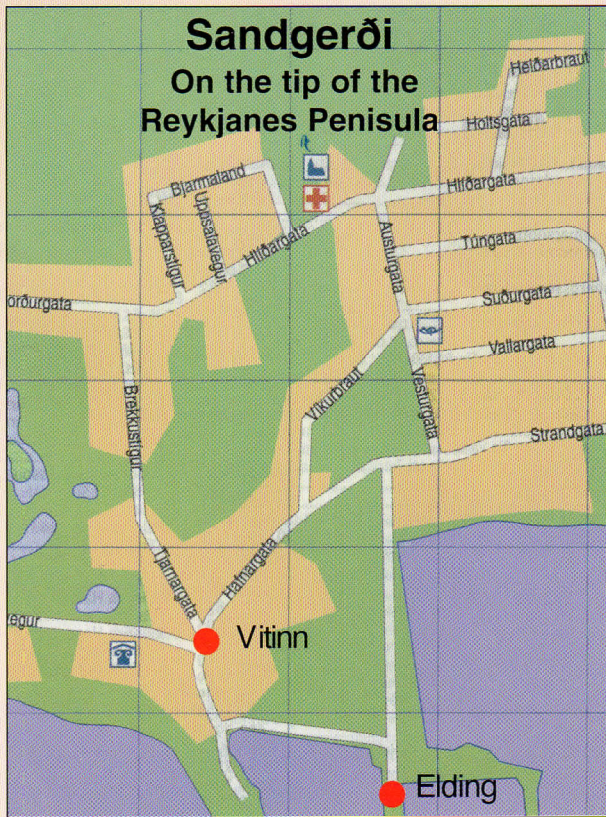
### SPEAKING OF WHALES:

On the checkout scene again, I got to take another whale watch during the month, this time with the Elding Company in Sangerði. They are located out on the end of the Reykjanes Peninsula, about seven kilometers from



the International Airport. We saw ONE Minke whale, and he (or she) was totally disinterested in our being there. But all was not lost. Just a few moments later a dolphin appeared, then there were two, then ten, then fifty, perhaps as many as a hundred. They were everywhere around the boat. The leaped out of the water playfully, swam and surfaced together in perfect harmony. What a sight and what beautiful creatures they are. Whale, even better, dolphin watching is HIGHLY recommended.





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# Whale Watching

ELDING WHALE WATCHING  
AND PLEASURE CRUISES

## Schedule

Whale watching May 1–October 1.  
Minimum 5 participants.  
Departures seven days a week at 10:30.  
Marine research centre available at 10:00  
Cruise duration: 2,5 - 3 hours.  
Coach pickup service from hotels in Reykjavík at 8:15 - 9:15 daily.

Whale watching trips must be booked in advance. Other trips are available by arrangement for groups, such as sea angling, bird watching and sunset cruises.

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