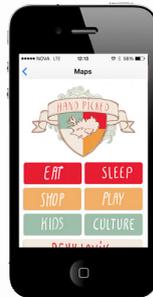


# HANDPICKED KIDS



## HANDPICKED ICELAND IS FOR TRAVELERS SEEKING AN AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCE



Need a trusted, local friend to help you get the most out of a visit to Iceland? Then hold on tight to this little map. A group of picky locals have chosen some of their favorite places that they recommend to their own friends - making sure you'll find a nice blend of local, unique, green, and fun experiences!

Get the **HandPicked App** or go to our webpage [www.handpickediceland.is](http://www.handpickediceland.is)

Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest.

Published by *Í Boði Náttúrunnar* magazine - inspired by Icelandic nature, wellbeing and sustainable living.

### 1 VIKING WORLD

A wonderful glimpse into Viking history, Viking World has on permanent display the Icelander, a replica Viking ship that actually retraced the Viking route to Vinland. The museum also houses the exhibition Vikings — The North Atlantic Saga, not to mention a fun and interesting audio tour about Nordic mythology. This Viking History museum comes highly recommended. **Vikingabraut, Reykjanesbær** 422 2000 / [vikingaheimar.com](http://vikingaheimar.com)

### 2 THE FAMILY PARK AND ZOO

An ideal family friendly place to spend the day. The main focus is on Icelandic farm animals and several wild species such as seals and arctic foxes. Animal petting and supervised pony rides available every weekday (during summer). The park is filled with several fun rides and playground equipment popular amongst the locals. **Laugardalur, Reykjavík** 411 5900 / [husdyragardur.is](http://husdyragardur.is)

### 3 VIDEY ISLAND — BY FERRY

Viðey is a historic little island a few minutes ferry ride from Reykjavík. Whether it's the ferry ride itself or walking barefoot on black beaches, hiking, renting a bicycle, playing at the playground, sitting in a charming cafe or exploring the small museum, everyone can find their own adventure. Also on the island is the Imagine Peace Tower, a

fascinating work of art by Yoko Ono. **Old Harbour and Skarfabakki Pier, Reykjavík**, 533 5055 / [videy.com](http://videy.com)

### 4 ISHÉSTAR — RIDING TOURS

Riding the friendly Icelandic horse is a must when in Iceland! The Ishéstar Riding Centre is a 10 min drive from Reykjavík offering daily tours through the beautiful lava fields surrounding Mt. Helgafell volcano or into Heidmork Nature Park. The tours are ideal for beginners as well as experienced riders. **Sörilaskeið 26, Hafnarfjörður** 555 7000 / [ishestar.is](http://ishestar.is)

### 5 ÁRBÆJARSAFN — OPEN AIR MUSEUM

A wonderful way to spend an afternoon, this delightful open air museum gives an insight into the ways of life and lifestyles of the people of Reykjavík in earlier times. 20 relocated and restored buildings form a square, a village, and a farm with domestic animals (in the summer). Treat yourself to waffles with cream and jam at the kaffihús (café)! 20% off entry with this brochure. **Kistuhylur, Reykjavík** 411 6300 / [reykjavikcitymuseum.is](http://reykjavikcitymuseum.is)

### 6 THE SETTLEMENT CENTRE

A very informative and creative multimedia museum with audio-guided exhibitions in 14 languages. The exhibitions tell the "Saga of The Settlement of Iceland" and of Iceland's most famous Viking and first poet Egill Skallagrímsson. Good gift

shop, great restaurant and free Wifi! A must on your way through Borgarnes! **Brákarbraut 13-15, Borgarnes** 437 1600 / [landnam.is](http://landnam.is)

### 7 BIRD PARADISE IN BREIÐAFJÖRDUR BAY

This is a must for nature lovers of all kinds! Whether you want to experience the birdlife and nature of Breiðafjörður Bay by boat or treat yourself to a stopover at unique little island Flatey, then Seatours in Stykkishólmur is for you. Fresh scallops & sea urchin roe straight from the sea on offer on their Viking Sushi tour. **Smiðjustigur 3, Stykkishólmur** 433-2254 / [seatours.is](http://seatours.is)

### 8 THE SEA MONSTER MUSEUM

This visit will add a new dimension to you imagination! Tales of sea monsters have been an important element in Icelandic folk culture for centuries and it is said that the shores of Arnarfjörður are a sea monster hotspot! The beasts come to life in a hands-on multimedia display and through first hand accounts of eye witnesses. They even have "tangible evidence" for their existence! **Strandgata 7, Bildudalur** 456 6666 / [skrimli.is](http://skrimli.is)

### 9 THE VIKING SHIP VÉSTEINN

The Viking Village at Thingeyri has a lot to offer to those interested in the old Viking ways. You can sail on the 12m long Viking ship Vésteinn where you can row and hoist the sails or just indulge in a little sea angling. Go to the Viking school and learn about how the Vikings lived, fought and dressed and meet the animals they brought with them to Iceland. A wonderful way for the whole family to spend a day! **Hafnarbraut 23, Þingeyri** 894 1684 / [eaglefjord.is](http://eaglefjord.is)

### 10 SEA KAYAKING IN ISAFJÖRDUR

Set in the beautiful fishing town of Isafjörður in the stunning West Fjords, this is a perfect introduction for all ages into sea kayaking. Kayaking in these beautiful surroundings is simply an unforgettable experience. You begin by getting short lessons in paddling and then go paddle around the inner fjord, keeping an eye out

for seals. Minimum age is 12 years. **Aðalstræti 7, Ísafjörður** 456 5111 / [westtours.is](http://westtours.is)

### 11 EIRIK THE RED'S VIKING FARM

Step into the Viking Era at Eiríksstaðir, a recreation of Eric the Red's farmstead, the birthplace of Leif the Lucky who discovered America. Experience first hand the sights and sounds as modern day Vikings demonstrate the lifestyle of 1000 years ago. Hear the Sagas told by the long-fire and try out some Viking gear. Definitely a treat for both the young and old. **Eiríksstaðir, Haukadalur (rural)** 434 1118 / 661 0434 / [eiriksstaadir.is](http://eiriksstaadir.is)

### 12 THE ICELANDIC SEAL CENTRE AND SEAL-WATCHING

Located on Vatnsnes peninsula, one of the best places in Iceland to see seals in their natural habitat. The Seal Centre is a small but very informative exhibition and research center, providing great way to learn about seals in Iceland with stories and folklore surrounding these fascinating creatures. Top off the day with a guided seal-watching boat tour on the traditional wooden fishing boat "Brimill," carefully restored in 2010. **Strandgata 1 og Brekkugata 2, Hvammstangi**, 451 2345 / [selasetur.is](http://selasetur.is)

### 13 THE BIRDLAND EXHIBITION

Set in the beautiful surroundings of Svarfadaralur, this fun and innovative bird exhibition is for all ages. Mysteriously, 270 egg cups, a disco-ball and a lock of hair all play a role and kids (both young and old) are encouraged to both touch the exhibits and explore. The Icelandic bird and fauna is shown in a natural and cultural context without the solemnity that often characterizes nature exhibitions and museums. **Húsabakki, Svarfadaralur (rural)** 466 1551 / 861 8884

### 14 THE OLD TOYS EXHIBITION

Located in Fridbjarnarhouse, a lovely old house from the 18th century, a private collection of antique toys from the 20th century gives a glimpse into days gone past. The collection is varied and includes amongst other things; porcelain headed dolls and windup cars, bones and shells

used by Icelandic children of the past for toys. A playroom with toys and games is open for guests. **Aðalstræti 46, Akureyri** 863 4531 / [ringsted@akmennt.is](mailto:ringsted@akmennt.is)

### 15 HÚSAVIK WHALE MUSEUM

Located by the harbour in Húsavík, this informative and fun museum has a stunning display of whale skeletons and information in many languages. It is very child oriented and offers free coffee and a great sofa lounging area. Well worth a visit before or even after a whale watching tour. Comes highly recommended! **Hafnarstétt 1, Húsavík** 414 2800 / [whalemuseum.is](http://whalemuseum.is)

### 16 GENTLE GIANTS WHALE WATCHING

Situated in beautiful Húsavík, nicknamed the "Whale Spotting Capital of the World," these Big Whale Safari & Puffin Tours take place in the spectacular Skjálfandi Bay. Focusing on the big whales, such as Humpbacks, Minke Whales and Big Blues as well as the genial white-beaked dolphins and more. Refreshments from Húsavík's only winemaker and fast boats make this a personal and unforgettable experience! **Túngata 6, Húsavík** 464 1500 / [gentlegiants.is](http://gentlegiants.is)

### 17 ELFLAND

If you like elves and fairies then this is the place to visit. Besides being a place of unspoilt, natural beauty, Borgarfjörður Eystri is also considered to be a central province of the elves in Iceland, where the queen of the elves herself is said to reside. Housed in an old post office where locals tell stories of elves and the young can dress up in elf costumes and beautiful tiaras. Great fun for all lovers! **Bakkagerði, Borgarfjörður Eystri** 861 3677 / [alfheimar.com](http://alfheimar.com)

### 18 BONES, STICKS AND STONES

A wonderfully quirky place in the small village of Djúpvogur. Here you can see the unbelievable collection of Vilmundur who has laid down fishbones in all sizes and shapes, along with stones and sticks which he also carves creating decorative figures. **Vikurland 7, Djúpvogur** 868 9058 / [stonesandbones@talnet.is](http://stonesandbones@talnet.is)

### 19 DOG SLEDDING

All animal lovers will certainly enjoy this unforgettable adventure of gliding through the still, quiet Icelandic scenery with a form of travel that brings you into contact with nature in a very vivid way. Dog-sledding truly is a family friendly sport. On glacier during spring/summer and around Reykjavík area rest of the year. 50% discount for children under age of 12.

**Skálafell, Hólmasel, Langjökull west side (rural)**, 863 6733 / [dogsleding.is](http://dogsleding.is)

### 20 THE CIRCLE TOUR

The Westman Islands have a lot to offer children and parents alike and are half an hour away from Landeyja Harbour by ferry. If you'd like to see whales, puffins, ocean caves, millions of seabirds and a still warm volcano then this wonderful adventure is for you. A boat cruise around the beautiful Westman Islands is a great way to experience the island. Free for children aged under 9. **Tangagata 7, Westman Islands**, 488 4884 / [vikingtours.is](http://vikingtours.is)

### 21 SLAKKI PETTING ZOO AND PARK

If you want to get up close and personal with some cute farm animals then this is the place for you. Located in Laugaras in Biskupstungur, Slakki is ideal for a family outing. Not only are there sheep, puppies, kittens, geese, ducks, parrots, mice, fish, chickens, turkeys, piglets, calves, foxes and rabbits but also an indoor mini-golf course and a nice restaurant. **Laugarás, Selfoss (rural)** 868 7626 / 486 8783 / [slakki.is](http://slakki.is)

### 22 KAYAK TOURS

Kayaking is a great way for kids and grown-ups alike to experience the nature and wildlife of Stokkseyri. The area consists of small and big ponds connected by narrow canals and is the ideal surroundings for enormous numbers of birds and plants. Access to swimming pool and hot tubs included in all tours. Bring spare clothes, a towel and swimsuit. **Heiðarbrún 12, Stokkseyri** 868 9046 / 695 2058 / [kajak.is](http://kajak.is)

# kids & culture

## HANDPICKED

2014-2015



# HAND PICKED CULTURE



## 1 REYKJANES MARITIME CENTRE

Over 100 beautifully handcrafted miniatures of Icelandic ships and boats made by the former fisherman and sea captain Grímur Karlsson are on display here. Each boat is handcrafted with painstaking detail showing great workmanship and is a real feast for the eye! Here is a great chance to get an insight into Iceland's maritime history.  
Duusgata 2-8, Reykjanæsbær  
421 3796 / sjominjar.is

## 2 THE ICELANDIC MUSEUM OF ROCK AND ROLL

This brand new museum featuring the pop and rock music history of Iceland is a must for music enthusiasts. Upon entering you are handed a tablet computer with headphones that enables you to dive into the stories behind artists such as Björk, The Sugarcubes, Sigur Ros, Of Monsters and Men and many more. Show your skills in the museum's very own sound lab and try out an electric drum kit, guitars, bass guitars and keyboards.  
Hjallavegur 2, Njarðvík  
420 1030 / rokkasafn.is

## 3 THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND

A great place to start your journey in Iceland. Reopened in 2004 after an extensive refurbishment, the now modernized and well laid out museum holds a dynamic exhibition with the availability of tours in many languages. You will come away with an appreciation of the challenges that faced the people who made Iceland their home. With a nice little café, a children's interactive area and a very interesting gift shop.  
Suðurgata 41, Reykjavík  
530 2200 / thodminjasafn.is

## 4 THE SETTLEMENT EXHIBITION

This clever little underground museum gives a fascinating insight into life in Viking times. Located at the archaeological dig site where the oldest relics of human habitation in Reykjavík were uncovered in 2001, fragments of which were found dating to before 871 AD! Plenty of activities to keep younger visitors interested. 20% off entry with this brochure.  
Aðalstræti 16, Reykjavík  
411 6370 / reykjavikcitymuseum.is

## 5 REYKJAVÍK MARITIME MUSEUM

Definitely worth a visit, located by the old harbour and a pleasant stroll away from the city centre, this well laid out museum shows the development of the Icelandic fishing industry and coast culture through the years. We recommend taking a tour of the Coast Guard Ship Öðinn, possibly Iceland's largest historical relic, docked next to the museum. A waterfront café with fresh fish sets the tone and caps the visit! 20% off entry with this brochure.  
Grandagarður 8, Reykjavík  
517 9400 / reykjavikcitymuseum.is

## 6 CHILDREN THROUGHOUT A CENTURY

Don't miss this attractive and informative exhibition located in The Borgarnes Museum. The exhibit of photos and artifacts tell a story of the children in Iceland and how their roles have changed in the last 100 years - stories that are both funny and sad and will stay with you long after your visit. A recent addition to the museum is a very attractive gallery of birds. Worth a long visit!  
Bjarnarbraut 4-6, Borgarnes  
433 7200 / borgarbyggd.is

## 7 SAMÚEL JÓNSSON'S ART FARM

One of the strangest places in Iceland, this secluded farm in the remote valley of Selárdalur holds the collected works of one of Iceland's most famous naïve artists, Samúel Jónsson (1885-1969). A sculpture garden, a chapel and a museum with paintings and other small works enable us to see the world through one Icelandic farmer's eyes. Even the drive there is very interesting!  
Selárdalur, Arnarfjörður (rural)  
698 7533 / sogumidlun.is

## 8 THE ICELANDIC TEXTILE MUSEUM BLÖNDUÓS

This is a real gem, an inspiration for textile buffs! This modern museum celebrates the artistry of women's handcraft and displays a unique collection of beautiful Icelandic national costumes (the best in Iceland), local handicrafts, intricate embroideries and temporary exhibits from contemporary Icelandic textile designers. A charming place to visit while in Blönduós.  
Árbraut 29, Blönduós  
452 4067 / textile.is

## 9 ICELANDIC EMIGRATION CENTRE

A first stop for many North Americans of Icelandic descent looking for their roots. The museum tells the story of those who fled the harsh conditions in Iceland (by 1914 almost 20% of the population) and left for the New World.  
Höfðsós, 453 7935 / hofsois.is

## 10 HVOLL – DALVIK FOLK MUSEUM

Be sure to make your way to this interesting local history museum, the highpoint being an exhibition on Johann Svarfðaeling. This local giant, at one point the tallest man in the world, stood at 2.34m (almost 7ft 7in). The museum also boasts a splendid natural history exhibition with a polar bear amongst other things.  
Hvoll by Karlsrauðatorg, Dalvík  
466 1497 / dalvikurbbyggd.is/byggdasafn

## 11 THE HOUSE OF SHARK JORUNDUR

A day trip to Hrisey is truly inspiring and comes highly recommended. Iceland's second largest offshore island in the middle of Eyjafjörður is home to this charming little museum. Located in the oldest house on the island it features an exhibition about the history of the island and of shark fishing in earlier times. Don't miss out on taking the tractor taxi.  
Norðurvegur 3, Hrisey  
461 4400 / hrisey.net

## 12 ICELANDIC AVIATION MUSEUM

Located next to the airport this impressive little museum is a treat for aviation buffs. It hosts a very comprehensive collection of aircraft and aircraft equipment and parts, telling the story of Iceland's aviation history. You can step on board some of the larger planes.  
Akureyri Airport, Akureyri  
695 0077 / flugsafn.is

## 13 HUSAVÍK CULTURE HOUSE

A folk, maritime and natural-history museum all rolled into one, with an award winning display on Icelandic cultural life featuring a large number of boats and stuffed animals, amongst them a polar bear and a sea lion. There's also a special room for young visitors. Only a five minute walk from the harbour.  
Stórigarður 17, Husavík  
464 1860 / husmus.is

## 14 BUSTARFELL MUSEUM

One of the best preserved turf farmhouses in Iceland. Go on a journey through the history of farming and changes in lifestyle from the beginning of the 18th century to the mid-20th century. The same family owned the farm since 1532 and lived there until 1966. You can get traditional cakes and coffee at the homely Café Croft.  
Bustarfell, Vopnafjörður (rural)  
471 2211 / bustarfell.is

## 15 SÆNAUTASEL

Built on the moorland Jokuldalsheidi, this is a truly unique place to visit. This restored turf farmhouse is considered the model for the setting of the novel: "Sjálfstætt fólk" (Independent People) by Nobel Prize winner, Halldór Kiljan Laxness. The original farm was abandoned when the volcano Askja erupted in 1875. A cozy café serves traditional pancakes (lummur) and coffee.  
Merki, Egilsstaðir (rural), 892 8956

## 16 TECHNICAL MUSEUM OF EAST ICELAND

Situated in beautiful Seyðisfjörður, surrounded on three sides by mountains, this museum is one of the first of its kind in Iceland. The main focus is on the arrival of modern times around 1880 to 1950 and the effect the technical innovations had on people's daily life. The original telegraph equipment on display must be seen in action to be truly appreciated!  
Hafnargata 44, Seyðisfjörður  
472 1696 / tekmus.is

## 17 SKAFTFELL CULTURAL CENTRE

Located in the unique, micro community of Seyðisfjörður, Skaftfell is devoted to promoting and exhibiting visual art, the main priority being contemporary art. With running exhibitions the whole year through, an art education artist's residency program for visual artists and scholars.  
Austurvegur 42, Seyðisfjörður  
472 1632 / skaftfell.is

## 18 ICELANDIC WARTIME MUSEUM

Set in the charming seaside village of Reyðarfjörður, this interesting museum gives a glimpse of times passed when 3000 allied soldiers, ten times the local population, were stationed there in WWII and the impact it had. The museum is

located in the original barracks above the town. Definitely worth a visit!  
Heiðarvegur 37, Reyðarfjörður  
470 9063 / fjardabyggd.is

## 19 PETRA'S STONE COLLECTION

A collection of Icelandic rocks and minerals, most of which derive from Stöðvarfjörður and its vicinity. Thought to be the World's largest private stone collection and the life work of Steina Petra, an amateur stone collector, it is housed in her former home and beautifully kept backyard, now run by her children and grandchildren.  
Fjarðarbraut 21, Stöðvarfjörður  
475 8834 / steinapetra.is

## 20 LANGABUÐ MUSEUM

A beautiful old timber house built in 1790 by a Danish merchant, Langabúð now houses a museum, café and souvenir shop, an exhibition of the life and work of the sculptor Ríkharður Jónsson (1888-1977), as well as various artifacts from the area. A friendly and welcoming atmosphere as well as a great view overlooking the harbour.  
Langabúð, Djúpvogur  
478 8220 / djupivogur.is

## 21 SKRÍÐUKLAUSTUR

In a wonderful Bavarian style stone house built in 1939, located in the beautiful surroundings of Fljótsdalur, you will find this Centre of Culture and History with monastic ruins, historical and art exhibitions, personal guidance and a superb local food restaurant.  
Skríðuklaustur, Egilsstaðir (rural)  
471 2990 / skriduklaustur.is

## 22 THE SKOGAR FOLK MUSEUM

A treasure trove for enthusiasts of Icelandic history and culture, this is a definite stop on your way along the south coast. This small museum with big ideas is really three in one: a folk museum, open-air museum and a transport museum. Situated directly under the infamous Eyjafjallajökull and right next to the beautiful waterfall Skógafoss.  
Skógar, Hvolsvöllur (rural)  
487 8845 / skogasafn.is

## 23 SAGNHEIMAR FOLK MUSEUM

Learn about the history of the Westman Islands, the raid by marauding pirates in

1627, the volcanic eruption in 1973, native bird life and the hardship and difficulties of the islands fishermen and women faced through the ages. For the young at heart there's a pirate cave with costumes and a treasure chest!  
Ráðhúströð, Westman Islands  
488 2045 / sagnheimar.is

## 24 ELDEIMAR

Exhibition on the dramatic volcanic eruption in Heimaey 1973, one of Iceland's biggest natural disasters. The highlight is a house that was buried under the ash and lava and has now been excavated providing a glimpse into the lives of the people who had to leave their homes and evacuate the island in the middle of the night.  
Suðurvegur/Geirðisbraut 12, Westman Islands, 488 2000 / eldeimar.is

## 25 THE ICELANDIC TURF HOUSE

A great opportunity to understand and appreciate the origin and cultural context of the turf houses that have kept Icelanders alive through the centuries. The renovated Old Farmstead, Exhibition Hall and Café is a highly recommended stop.  
Austur Meðalholt, Gaulverjabæjavegur, Selfoss (rural)  
894 1275 / islenskibaerinn.is

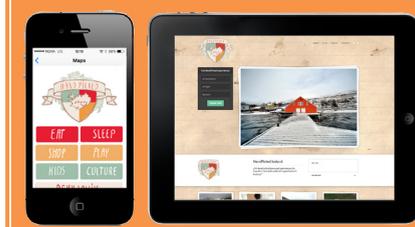
## 26 THE WOOL CENTRE – THINGBORG

Thingborg was formerly a local community centre and school before a group of women started meeting here to work with indigenous wool - finally opening a wool workshop and gallery. A great place to get an insight into the tradition of working with wool in Iceland and to do some shopping.  
8km east of Selfoss on Route 1 (rural)  
482 1027 / thingborg.net

## 27 THE FISCHER CENTRE

A must for chess aficionados, this small museum in honor of chess grandmaster Bobby Fischer features a permanent exhibition on the "Match of the Century" which took place in Reykjavík in 1972 between Fischer and Boris Spassky, considered to be one of the most glorious moments in the history of the game of chess. Fischer's grave is in Laugardalur, only a few hundred metres from the Centre.  
Austurvegur 21, Selfoss  
894 1275 / fischeretur.is

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