



ART *and* CULTURE A

<i>Underrated</i> TREASURES	26
<i>Sophisticated</i> SCULPTURES	29
<i>Fabulous</i> FESTIVALS <i>and</i> EVENTS	35
<i>Not-to-miss</i> HISTORICAL MUSEUMS	37
QUIRKY MUSEUMS <i>worth a visit</i>	41
<i>Genteel</i> GALLERIES	45
<i>Compelling</i> SHOWS <i>and</i> SPECTACLES	48
<i>Vivacious</i> VENUES	50

Famous **FILM LOCATIONS**

38 **STAR WARS AT HJÖRLEIFSHÖFÐI**

Mýrdalssandur
871 Vík í Mýrdal
South Iceland
+354 487 1480
south.is

A 3.4-kilometre looping trail in South Iceland leads to Hjörleifur's burial mound, surrounded by wildflowers and epic views of the Mýrdalssandur black sand coastline. The 221-metre (725-foot)-high inselberg Hjörleifshöfði is named after the brother of the island's first settler, Ingólfur Arnarsson. The area was used as a shooting location for the film *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, posing as planet Lah'mu in the film's opening scenes. Coincidentally, a nearby attraction, Gýgagjá, has been nicknamed 'Yoda Cave' because seaside erosion has carved out the cavern's entrance into this strange alien's shape, ears and all.

39 **JAMES BOND AND LARA CROFT AT JÖKULSÁRLÓN LAGOON**

Jökulsárlón
781 Höfn í
Hornafirði
East Iceland
+354 483 4601
south.is/en

Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon provides much nostalgia for those with a keen memory of action cinema, not mentioning 90s kids in general. For not only was Pierce Brosnan's suave take on 007 pursued across this glittering ice lake in 2002's *Die Another Day*, but Jökulsárlón also backdropped for Siberia in the opening three minutes of *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider* (2001). It's easy to see why Hollywood sought to immortalise Jökulsárlón in celluloid when standing on the banks of this aquamarine lagoon.

39 JAMES BOND AND LARA CROFT AT JÖKULSÁRLÓN LAGOON







171 HÁIFOSS AND GRANNI WATERFALLS

Wet and wild WATERFALLS

171 HÁIFOSS AND GRANNI WATERFALLS

Pjósárdalur Valley
801 Selfoss
South Iceland

Tumbling from the Stygian glacial river Þjórsá, Háifoss (High Falls) is 122 metres high, making it the fourth highest waterfall in Iceland. Granni (Neighbour) can also be seen falling majestically beside it, creating a genuinely fantastical landscape sure to leave you awestruck. Visiting these falls requires a 5 to 6-hour hike up Þjórsá's spring water tributary, Fossá, a superb experience given the agrarian surroundings of South Iceland. The most prominent landmark en route is Hekla volcano.

172 GLJÚFRABÚI (CANYON DWELLER) WATERFALL

Access from
Hamragarðar farm
861 Hvolsvöllur
South Iceland

Hidden down a narrow crack within the ancient sea cliffs of Iceland's south coast, Gljúfrabúi is a five-minute stroll from the famous waterfall, Seljalandsfoss. While the latter is best known for its trail leading visitors behind the falls, Gljúfrabúi is instantly recognisable for the mossy and monolithic rock faces that encircle the entire cascade. Getting to it will require some casual hiking as you'll need to follow a trickling stream right up to where the water drops. A natural rock platform in front of Gljúfrabúi makes for a brilliant photography spot.







218 NORÐ AUSTUR

Norðurgata 2
710 Seyðisfjörður
East Iceland
+354 787 4000
nordastur.is

Iceland is famous for its abundance of fresh fish, yet attempts to capitalise on its own style of sushi still remain largely wanting. Thankfully, the Seyðisfjörður restaurant, Norð Austur, has long swum against the current by offering locally sourced sushi so delicious it threatens to rival even their Japanese counterparts. Alongside an appetising and colourful variety of beverages (daiginjo sake, being one example), diners can sample smoked arctic char, Japanese fried chicken and spicy salmon rolls.

219 VOGAFJÓS
FARM RESORT

Vogum 1
660 Mývatn
Northeast Iceland
+354 464 3800
vogafjosfarmresort.is

Homemade cheese and baked goods, hanged meat and smoked trout are just some of the mouth-watering delicacies cooked up at Vogafjós Farm Resort. Both a guesthouse and cafe-restaurant, this delightful retreat has been in the same family for 120 years. Visitors will meet the farm's sheep and cows and can purchase artisan products at the market stall inside the barn.

220 CAFÉ RIIS

Hafnarbraut 39
510 Hólmavík
Westfjords
+354 451 3567
caferiss.is

Sit back and relax in this attractive homespun pub, where magic runic symbols are carved decoratively in the bar, and elk antlers hang above the front door. Aside from the staple menu items like grilled strips of teriyaki chicken and fried cod chins, Café Riis also serves a range of artisan pizzas, making it a fine choice for both fine dining and a quick dinner stop. Anyone venturing as far as the majestic Westfjords should stop by while passing through the Hólmavík; you'll recognise Café Riis in the centre of town by its lime-green, corrugated iron exterior.

Chat in COMFY CAFES

255 KAFFI KLAUSTUR

Skriðuklaustur
701 Egilsstaðir
East Iceland
+354 471 2990
skriduklaustur.is

Housed in the cultural centre Skriðuklaustur – former quarters of the revered Icelandic author, Gunnar Gunnarsson – Kaffi Klaustur is one of East Iceland's finest casual cafes. Focussed on providing excellent coffee and flavoursome regional cuisine, Kaffi Klaustur will leave no traveller hungry with their very generous daily lunch buffets. Expect such appetising offerings as Icelandic lamb, venison, bramble berries and sauteed mushrooms.

256 GRÁI KÖTTURINN / THE GREY CAT

Hverfisgata 16-A
101 Reykjavík
Capital Region
+354 551 1544
graikotturinn.is

Those facing untimely arrivals to the city can do no better than Grái Kötturinn, a delightful stop to enjoy the early morning hours with a large cup of piping hot *svart kaffi* (black coffee). Guests seeking a hearty breakfast need look no further than the staple menu item, The Truck: American pancakes, potatoes, fried eggs, toast, bacon and tomatoes. Stopping by Grái Kötturinn is a nourishing way to begin your day exploring the city.



Unwind at HEARTSOME HOTELS

275 FROST & FIRE HOTEL

Hverhamar
810 Hveragerði
South Iceland
+354 483 4959
frostogfuni.is

Near Hveragerði's geothermal river, Varmá is a boutique hotel that offers its guests a lavish stay using subterranean energy. Riverside hot tubs, a relaxing sauna, and an outdoor pool are all among the hotel's luxurious amenities. Its sleek interior is decorated with captivating works by local artists, while outside, the steamy volcanic hillsides of Reykjadalur promise excellent hiking trails. Surrounding farmsteads provide the ingredients for the onsite Varmá Restaurant's à la carte dishes.



276 HÓTEL RANGÁ

Suðurlandsveggi
851 Hella
South Iceland
+354 487 5700
hotelranga.is

South Iceland's only four-star resort, Rangá is named after the nearby salmon river. The trickling feature can be seen running between Mount Hekla and Eyjafjallajökull volcano through the windows of any one of the hotel's 52 furnished rooms. Many come with spa baths, balconies and flatscreen televisions, though the real luxuries are found downstairs with the hotel's own cognac office and two sophisticated bars. In case this wasn't enough, Hótel Rangá also operates an advanced planetarium, regarded as one of the most impressive stargazing and Northern Lights facilities in Iceland.

