



2010

6TH NÖRDIC – BALTIC
CHORAL FESTIVAL, REYKJAVIK
ICELAND 17 – 22 AUGUST





Reykjavik Pure Energy

Visitors to Reykjavik experience easily the pure energy at the heart of Iceland's capital city – whether from the boiling thermal energy underground, the natural green energy within the city and around it, or the lively culture and fun-filled nightlife.

Think of the qualities of a great city – fun, space, clean air, nature, culture – and Reykjavik has them in spades. It has the features of a modern, forward-looking society which are complemented by a close connection to beautiful nature right on the city's doorstep. Reykjavik is a great place to visit, whether for some cultural nourishment, a spot of unbridled fun or to recharge your batteries. Reykjavik is, at the same time a small town and a capital city, combining the benefits of both. It has a thriving cultural life in which its citizens take a very active part.

Reykjavik enjoys a surprisingly energetic and inspiring community of artists, musicians, writers and designers. Since medieval times, Icelandic culture has produced a rich selection of literary gems, and Icelanders still value books above all else. Libraries, book shops and literary cafés attest to this living cultural heritage.

Twelve hundred years of Icelandic culture can be explored in a variety of museums in Reykjavik some recreating the Viking heritage of the modern-day Icelanders. In recent years, Reykjavik has become better known for its uniquely creative and buzzing music scene spanning the whole scale from the Iceland Symphony Orchestra to Björk and Sigur Rós.

Reykjavik is already famous for its vibrant culture and nightlife, but certain occasions are particularly special. The city of Reykjavik and its neighbouring towns host numerous festivals throughout the year, including Culture Night in August, the Winter Lights Festival in February and the Festival of the Sea in June. The **Reykjavik Culture Night** in August has become an essential part of cultural life in Iceland with tens of thousands of people strolling the streets of the city on this exciting and eventful night. Reykjavik Culture Night offers the chance to enjoy a variety of activities ranging from traditional shows and exhibitions to more unusual happenings. A number of cultural institutes such as galleries, ateliers, shops, cafés, churches, restaurants and bars in Reykjavik city centre stay open until late. The celebrations culminate in a large fireworks show late in the evening. The immensely popular Reykjavik Marathon takes place on the same day.

A walk through the streets of Reykjavik will treat you to a brilliant display of the colors of the city's several small neighborhoods. This is a modern city, characterized by an interesting contrast of modern and vintage buildings. Reykjavik held the title European City of Culture in year 2000, and has since flourished as a cultural city.

Reykjavik is by far the largest community in Iceland, with a population of about 120,000. Including the neighboring towns, the capital area has a total population of about 200,000, which is about 60% of Iceland's population of 320,000 people.

Iceland was settled by Norwegian and Celtic immigrants during the late 9th and 10th centuries AD. According to the medieval Book of Settlements, Ingolfur Arnarson the first settler of Iceland built his farm on the peninsula where Reykjavik stands today. The place was named Reykjavik "Smoky Bay" - after the columns of steam that rose from the hot springs in the area and made such a profound impression on the original settlers.

Many centuries later, around the middle of the 18th century, a small town started to grow around the farm of Reykjavik, thanks to Royal Treasurer Skuli Magnússon, known as the Father of Reykjavik, who established wool workshops in Reykjavik as part of his efforts to modernize the Icelandic economy. This led to Reykjavik's beginnings as an urban settlement. Reykjavik received its town charter in 1786.

The Icelandic parliament, Althing, was founded in 930 AD at Thingvellir in the southwest. In 1798 the Althing was abolished, but in 1845 it was re-established in Reykjavik, where the country's government and administration were now located. In due course, when Iceland won Home Rule and then independence from Danish rule, Reykjavik became the capital of Iceland. With the rapid economic progress of the 20th century, Reykjavik grew steadily, but developed especially fast in the second half of the century.

For a living view of Reykjavik's past, visit the open-air Reykjavik City Museum - Arbaejarsafn, located in the eastern part of the capital. The newly opened and innovative Reykjavik 871 +/-2 Settlement Exhibition, located on Adalstraeti in the city centre, allows visitors to view the recently discovered, oldest settlement ruins in Reykjavik and Iceland (possibly those of Ingolfur Arnarson or his descendants), featuring an original Viking age longhouse.

About the festival

The Nordic - Baltic Choral Festival brings together amateur and professional choirs that represent the countries of the region. The total expected number of participants is 1200 - 1500 people.

The idea of Nordic-Baltic Choir festivals was born and put into practice by Imants Kokars and Olav Storgård.

Previous festivals:

- I Nordic-Baltic Choral Festival - Riga 1995
- II Nordic-Baltic Choral Festival - Visby 1997
- III Nordic-Baltic Choral Festival - Skien 2000
- IV Nordic-Baltic Choral Festival - Klaipeda 2002
- V Nordic-Baltic Choral Festival - Tartu 2008
- VI Nordic-Baltic Choral Festival in Reykjavik 2010 means:
 - Participating in the Reykjavik Cultural Night on Saturday
 - Cultural exchange with fellow singers from the Nordic-Baltic regions
 - Exciting concert venues
 - Icelandic friendship choirs
 - Professional choir concerts
 - Workshops and seminars run by renowned lecturers and conductors
 - Joint concert at the festival venue
 - Festival club and final party for all participants

Preliminary schedule of the Festival

Tuesday August 17th

Arrivals throughout the day
Rehearsal for the Opening Ceremony
Opening ceremony in Laugardalshöll
Get-together in Festival Club

Wednesday August 18th

Choir rehearsals in Laugardalshöll
Workshops and seminars
Lunch concerts & sing-alongs
1st joint rehearsal
Dinner at Laugardalshöll
Evening concerts with friendship choirs
Festival Club in Laugardalshöll

Thursday August 19th Regional day

Sightseeing tours with lunch - optional
(bookings in advance - price not included)
Lunch at Laugardalshöll for those not participating in excursions.
Dinner at Laugardalshöll
Visit to the Blue Lagoon (bookings in advance - price not included)
Festival Club in Laugardalshöll

Friday August 20th

Choir rehearsals in Laugardalshöll
Workshops and seminars
Lunch concerts & sing-alongs
2nd joint rehearsal
Dinner at Laugardalshöll
Evening concerts with friendship choirs
Festival Club in Laugardalshöll

Saturday August 21st

Main rehearsal in Laugardalshöll
Lunch at Laugardalshöll
Participate in festivities of Reykjavik Culture Night
Choirs singing in Hallgrímskirkja church
Joint concert
Reception, dinner and final party in Laugardalshöll

Sunday August 22nd

Singing in church services (optional)
Departures or extensions

Travel information.

Travel from The Nordic countries to Iceland is easy with the international airport at Keflavik only about a 3 hour flight from Copenhagen and Stockholm. Icelandair, the national carrier; the low budget carrier Iceland Express and SAS all operate regular flights to Iceland in summer 2009 and are anticipated to continue doing so for 2010. Icelandair operates regular flights from Copenhagen, Stockholm, Oslo, Stavanger, Bergen and Helsinki and a new low-cost carrier, Iceland Express, flies to Keflavik airport from Copenhagen, Stockholm, Gothenburg, Ålborg, Billund and also from Warsaw and Krakow in Poland. SAS has flights from Oslo.

For online bookings please check out these links: www.icelandair.com, www.icelandexpress.com and www.flysas.com. We recommend booking flights for August 2010 rather early as the less expensive tickets are booked up fairly quickly.



Accommodation

The organisers and Iceland Incentives have reserved rooms at special rates at the following hotels in connection with the event.

Hilton Reykjavik Nordica – www.icehotels.is

Grand Hotel Reykjavik – www.grand.is

Park Inn Ísland – www.parkinn.is

Hotel Björk – www.keahotels.is

Hotel Cabin – www.hotelcabin.is

Icehotel Loftleidir – www.icehotels.is

Hotel Reykjavik – www.reykjavikhotels.is

Fosshotel Lind – www.fosshotel.is

Fosshotel Sudurgata University housing – www.fosshotel.is

Hotel Gardur University dormitory – www.innsoficeland.com

Radisson SAS, Saga Hotel – www.radissonblu.com/sagahotel-reykjavik

Hotel Vik – www.hotelvik.is

Guesthouse GJ – www.gjtravel.is

Hostel Reykjavik – www.hostel.is

Most of these are within walking distance of the main venue, Laugardalshöll. To obtain the special prices bookings must be made with Iceland Incentives. Public transportation within the city is frequent and available at reasonable rates.

Please send in your hotel request to matthias@iii.is. Rooms will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Any alterations to your hotel booking should be made directly with Iceland Incentives Inc. We strongly advise that you reserve hotel rooms well in advance as, after the beginning of April 2010, rooms can not be guaranteed.

Iceland Incentives Inc.

Hamraborg 1-3

200 Kópavogur, Iceland

Tel: +354 554 1400

Fax: +354 554 1472

E-mail: choral@iii.is

Website: www.iii.is/choral 2010

Expenses

All participants will cover their own expenses and pay the participation fee of € 35/40 per person.

Prices

Participation fee is € 40 per person for participants from Iceland, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and € 35 per person for participants from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Board is € 55 per person and includes 4 lunches and 4 dinners at the Laugardalshöll. Accommodation reserved includes hostel, guesthouses, 3 and 4 star hotels and dormitories ranging in cost from € 18 - € 65 per person per night. Breakfast and taxes are included in accommodation rates.

Contacts

Practical matters (accommodation, registration, transportation, etc)
Iceland Incentives Inc,
Matthias Kjartansson
Hamraborg 1 3
200 Kopavogur, Iceland
Tel. +354 554 1400, fax. +354 554 1472
e.mail: choral@iii.is

Musical matters

Margret Boasdottir margretbo@centrum.is
or Gardar Cortes gardarcortes@songskolinn.is

Pre-registration final deadline July 15, 2009

Registration final deadline is November 15, 2009

The event website is www.iii.is/choral2010. There, you will find necessary information on the Choral Festival, its program and Iceland. There is also a formal registration form on the website which can be filled out for registration and accommodation plus various other services and informative matters. The website ought to be launched by mid to late June, 2009 and will be updated on a regular basis.



Pre-registration form.

Name of Choir _____

Choir conductor _____

Choir contact person _____

Address _____

Tel: _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Number of choir members _____ total

Male _____ Female _____

Number of accompanying persons _____ total

Male _____ Female _____

We wish to:

Perform in the joint concert Yes No

Take part in concerts with friendship choirs Yes No

Give our own concert Yes No

Accommodation:

We are interested in:

4 star hotel from € 65 pp per night

3 star hotel from € 50 pp per night

2 star hotel from € 40 pp per night

Hostel from € 25 pp per night

Guesthouse from € 25 pp per night

Dormitory housing from € 18 pp per night

Planned arrival _____ Planned departure _____

We require local rented transport Yes No

We require transport to and from airport Yes No

Costs:

Participation fee HDI-1 € 40 pp (IS, DK, FI, NO, SE)

Participation fee HDI-2 € 35 pp (EE, LV, LT)

Board 18 - 21 August € 55 pp

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**Please fill out this form
and send us by e.mail or fax:**

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