

Scan Magazine

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Viking Village

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Attraction of the Month, Iceland

Immerse yourself in Viking culture

Eat, live and celebrate like the Vikings

Enter the Viking Village in the seaside town of Hafnarfjörður, in the Greater Reykjavík Area, and be transported back in time to the Viking Age. Here you can sample Viking-inspired dishes, sip on some mead and enjoy live entertainment, all in a one-of-a-kind setting, and then retreat to a Viking cottage or the distinctively furnished Hotel Viking.

Consisting of a hotel, cottages, a restaurant, dining hall, bar and souvenir shop, the village has been over 20 years in the making and is still growing, with a new expansion to the hotel planned for next year. The proud owner and the Icelandic Viking in charge, Jóhannes Viðar Bjarnason, believes that people visit the village to experience something different, something that is not available anywhere else.

“Our speciality is traditional Icelandic cuisine, and there is really no restaurant like ours anywhere else in the world. The art on the walls has been directly painted on or carved into the wood; it’s almost like a museum,” says Viðar Bjarnason. “We also have great actors and singers and offer live entertainment on most nights.”

With the staff garbed in period costumes, you really feel like you are amongst Vikings. Here guests can get stuck into the Viking Restaurant’s traditional dishes, including lamb, dried fish and shark, or, if feeling less adventurous, choose something from its European standard menu, and just sit back and soak in the authentic atmosphere.

At the village’s hotel, which currently comprises 43 rooms decorated in Viking or a West Nordic style, guests are greeted with fine art and crafts from Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands. The hotel also offers wireless Internet access, free parking, and a sauna and geothermal hot tub for relaxation. For slightly more traditional accommodation, guests can stay in one of the village’s 14 cottages that are decorated in Viking style and accommodate up to 5 people.

As an added fun twist to their stay, groups can also be “kidnapped” from their bus by the Vikings and taken to the Cave bar, where “the prisoners” will be offered mead and regaled with Viking songs and stories.

The village also hosts an annual Viking festival, taking place on the 14-17 June this year, which attracts Viking enthusiasts from all over Europe. The festival attractions include a handcraft market, battle re-enactments, storytelling, music and much more.

Fact box:

The Viking Village is a 10-minute drive from central Reykjavík and close to the international airport in Keflavík and the Blue Lagoon.

For more information, please visit:

www.vikingvillage.is