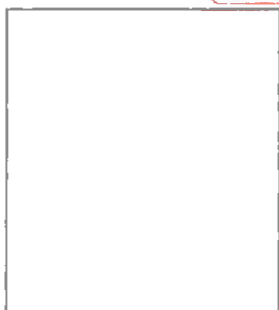


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DAILY NEWS

November 28 | Björk Voted among World's Weirdest



Icelandic artist Björk was voted the tenth most eccentric person in the world according to a survey of 2,000 people carried out by food company Nature Valley.

[more](#)

MULTIMEDIA

November 05 | A Trip to Vik



Click on the picture to watch an audio slideshow about a daytrip to Vik, the southernmost village of the

Icelandic mainland. The landscape along the way is incredibly diverse, ranging from steaming geothermal fields to roaring waterfalls, mystical lava fields to peaceful grassy lowlands, black sand beaches to shimmering white glaciers.

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DAILY LIFE

28.11.2012 | 11:20

Baring All (ZR)



Last week, San Francisco, famous for the liberal attitudes of its citizens, **banned** public nudity. Furious, civil liberties campaigners argue that the ban restricts freedom of expression.

The ban reportedly came after complaints of a growing number of naked men gathering in the Castro district, home to a large gay community.

Naturists and nudists advocate nudity for various reasons including the ability to live in harmony with nature: liberty, i.e., the right to go without clothes; and the belief that clothes create unhealthy and social barriers.

The practice exists in various degrees of popularity around the world—including in Iceland, although the climate is an obvious barrier.

Visitors to Iceland are often surprised by people's relaxed attitude to nudity when showering in the changing rooms at the country's swimming pools. Case in point, an [account](#) of a visit to Iceland's Blue Lagoon posted on the internet:

"Then, I caught a glimpse of the first naked lady and then another changing out there in the open. [...] Frankly, I was a bit worried about my kids' reactions to seeing all this stranger nakedness. [...] I was trying to gauge my daughter's reaction and thankfully it didn't seem to affect her too much. Afterwards, she said it was 'gross' to see all the naked people. I didn't go into 'a body is beautiful' speech but she does realize that some cultures and people are just more comfortable with publicly showing their bodies. We're just not one of them. My husband shielded our son as much as possible so we don't think he's overly traumatized."

...and this one of a [trip](#) to the swimming pool.

"Iceland requires you do this wash down naked and in a group shower. Well that realization hit like a ton of bricks! I walked in to get into my swim suit and I was bombarded w/nudity – all ages, all sizes, you name it. Then I read the signs. I still didn't quite believe it. I mean, why do we have to be fully nude?"

As for the reason for showering naked, it comes down to hygiene. You can't really wash yourself thoroughly (check those signs next to the showers if you need clarification as to what that means) when you've got your swimsuit on, can you?

While Icelanders may get naked in the changing rooms, unlike in Japan's *onsens*, bathing in Iceland's thermal pools and

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The custom made book *Iceland 2012*, which includes the best pictures of the year shot by *Iceland Review's*

photographers, makes for a unique present to friends and customers. You can include a personal greeting in your language (we have already had requests for Spanish, Danish and Icelandic). [more](#)

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REVIEWS

November 26 | Welcome to the Underworld: City State



City State by director Ólafur Jóhannesson didn't get as much attention as *Black's Game*—both films belong to a genre of darker crime thrillers than Iceland has

produced thus far—but shouldn't be overlooked. The story is told from four different angles and so viewers are given a deeper look into each main character, two gangsters and two police officers, all of whom are capable of doing both good and bad. [more](#)

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jacuzzis as well as its steam baths and saunas—with the exception of those housed inside the separate sex changing rooms—is done with swimwear on. Yes, it might happen occasionally at some of the jacuzzis in rural Iceland, but it's not a common occurrence I'm told.

While Reykjavik is no San Francisco, Sundhöllin swimming pool in downtown Reykjavik has an upstairs terrace for sunbathing in the nude—one side for men and one for women. I'd heard a rumor that the pool held occasional nude evenings but the staff at the pool told me that was simply not true.

In the countryside, it is not uncommon to go skinny dipping in the natural hot springs. But there are no nudist resorts (although according to a survey conducted in 2009/2010, there was some interest) and unlike in San Francisco you won't see groups of naked men gathering in downtown Reykjavik.

Public nudity is in fact banned here too, with arrest and a fine the general punishment. According to the Reykjavik metropolitan police, it happens rarely.

And that 2010 Inspired by Iceland tourism marketing video showing a naked couple skinny dipping in hot springs in the Icelandic countryside actually caused controversy with some criticizing the use of nudity to build up an image of Icelanders.

The website of the Iceland Association of Naturalists is no longer up and running so it's uncertain as to whether there are any formal groups which currently exist in the country.

While people in Iceland are generally open-minded and relaxed about nudity, and bathing in the countryside might be common among some, don't be fooled into thinking it is a nudist's paradise.

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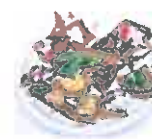
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November 26 | Food Addiction



Photographer [Ástaug Snorraddóttir](#) takes a modern twist on *skyr* and other traditional Icelandic foods. [more](#)

November 26 | Þórunn Elísabet Sveinsdóttir Exhibition



Þórunn seeks out materials that have a past and tell stories, but it's not the facts of these stories that she expresses, rather she uses the materials to spark new stories that each and every person creates in their mind, based on personal experience. [more](#)

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