



## Reykjavik Historical Statues

ROUTE IS 5

### Presentation of the route

The walk between statues in Reykjavik can be described as a walk through a mixture of European and Icelandic art history. Most of the artists were educated in art schools on the mainland of Europe and it shows in their work but it is also interesting to see how it mixes with Icelandic culture. The walk is easy and plenty of benches to have a seat and rest on the way.

The sculptures no 13 to 18 are situated in a section of the garden named “The Pearl Necklace” to honour the first women sculptors. Their work placed to make the pearls in the necklace.




The year 2019 marks a year of art in public spaces at the Reykjavík Art Museum. Download the library's Smart App, Reykjavik Outdoor Artworks, for free for Android and iOS.



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Waypoint 1	Arnarhóll
	<p>Ingólfur Arnarson is recognized to be the first permanent settler in Iceland together with his family (874 +/-). He settled in Reykjavik, namely in Adalstræti now in the present city centre. It is believed that most of the first settlers in Iceland came from West Norway. The statue shows a man in armor standing by a seat bracket decorated with a dragon's head, and holding on to erect halberd ("atgeir").  <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ingólfur_Arnarson">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ingólfur_Arnarson</a></p> <p>Einar Jónsson (1874-1954) was Iceland's first sculptor. He was one of the artists who, at the beginning of the new century, laid the foundation for modern art in Iceland and the first to devote his entire career to sculpture. He studied in Copenhagen from (1896-1899) later in Rome and Berlin, as well as working in the USA. He was inspired by the Icelandic legends as well as the Nordic mythology religious motifs. There are more of his statues on our way between the statues in the city centre.  <a href="http://www.lej.is/en/einar-jonsson/carreer/">http://www.lej.is/en/einar-jonsson/carreer/</a></p>
Waypoint 2	The Signs of the Guardians
	<p>The Signs of the Guardians are eleven statues on the roof of Arnarhóll, where the Ministry of Finance is located. The sculpture group is exhibited in cooperation with the Reykjavik Art Museum on the occasion of the museums initiative to promote art in public space in 2019. The work was first presented at the Museum of Military History in Dresden as an exhibition called Targeted Interventions.</p> <p>Steinunn Thorarinsdóttir (1955- ) is an Icelandic sculptor. She studied in England (1974-1979) and in Italy (1979-1980). Her work is recognized by her use of androgynous human figures. From the beginning, they have had strong ties with Icelandic nature. Man's conversation with nature, his environment and society is a guide in her art. Her exhibits have been showcased internationally and can be found in galleries, museums, airports, parks, streets, and fields.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Steinunn Thorarinsdóttir - Wikipedia</a></li> </ul>
Waypoint 3	Christian IX
	<p>The statue of Christian IX King of Denmark was unveiled at the Government Building in Reykjavik in 1915. The statue shows the King holding the Constitution in his right hand, which symbolizes its presentation to the Icelandic nation in 1874. Einar Jónsson (1874-1954) was Iceland's first sculptor <a href="http://www.lej.is/en/einar-jonsson/carreer/">http://www.lej.is/en/einar-jonsson/carreer/</a></p>

## Waypoint 4

## Hannes Hafstein



Hannes Thordur Hafstein (1861-1922) was an Icelandic politician and poet, and the first Icelander to be appointed to the Danish Cabinet as the Minister for Iceland (1904-1909). He stands erect on a high pedestal in front of the Government Building at Lækjargata and looks out over the harbor of Reykjavik.

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hannes\\_Hafstein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hannes_Hafstein)

Einar Jónsson (1874-1954) was Iceland's first sculptor.

- <http://www.lej.is/en/einar-jonsson/carreer/>

## Waypoint 5

## Jón Vídalín



Jón Vídalín (1666-1720). This memorial to the scholar, preacher, and principal Latin poet of his time, was erected at the Cathedral in 1920. He was the most outstanding Latin poet of his time and a distinguished scholar. He composed sermons and is best known for his Húss-Postilla "Sermons for the Home". It was read daily in most of the country's homes well into the 19th century. He was bishop of Skálholt from 1698 to 1720.

- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jon-Thorkelsson-Vidalin>

Ríkarður Jónsson (1888-1977) was an Icelandic sculptor and wood carver. His early training was as a wood carver (1905-1908), he studied sculpture in Copenhagen Academy of the Arts (1911-1914) and made some study visits to Italy. He emphasized the most natural looks of his models, whether it be human images or a woodcut motif. He remained loyal to naturalism, which he became familiar with during his years of study, and rejected the futuristic styles that were common in his time.

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%C3%ADkarður\\_Jónsson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%C3%ADkarður_Jónsson)

## Waypoint 6

## Jón Sigurðsson






Jón Sigurðsson forseti (1811-1879) was the leader of Iceland's independence movement in the 19th century. The statue and the relief "The Pioneer" made by the sculptor Einar Jónsson on the occasion of Jón Sigurðsson's 100th birthday on June 17th, 1911. The statue was funded through a collection campaign among people in Iceland and "West-Icelanders". It was situated at the Government Building in 1911 but moved to Austurvöllur in 1931



- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jón\\_Sigurðsson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jón_Sigurðsson)

Einar Jónsson (1874-1954) was Iceland's first sculptor.

- <http://www.lej.is/en/einar-jonsson/carreer/>

Waypoint 7	Ingibjörg H. Bjarnason
	<p>Ingibjörg H. Bjarnason (1868-1941) was the first woman to become a member of the Althingi, (the Parliament), 1922-1930, where she represented women's liberation movement, stayed in parliament for the Conservative Party, which later became the Independence Party. Ingibjörg played an important role in the women's rights campaign in early 20th century. On 19 June 2015 the statue was put in the garden to mark the one hundred years that had passed since women were granted the right to vote. The statue was the first complete sculpture made of a named woman in Reykjavik.</p> <p><a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ingibjörg_H._Bjarnason">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ingibjörg_H._Bjarnason</a></p> <p>Ragnhildur Stefánsdóttir, (1958-) is an Icelandic sculptor. She studied at the School of Fine Art and Crafts in Iceland (1977-1981) and completed an MFA degree from Carnegie Mellon University of the Arts University of Pittsburgh (1987). During her studies she played a part in exhibitions there on the grounds as well as in Iceland after her studies. Ragnhildur's best-known work is this sculpture of Ingibjörg H. Bjarnason.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&amp;sl=is&amp;u=https://is.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ragnhildur_Stef%C3%A1nsd%C3%B3ttir&amp;prev=search">https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&amp;sl=is&amp;u=https://is.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ragnhildur_Stef%C3%A1nsd%C3%B3ttir&amp;prev=search</a></li> </ul>
Waypoint 8	Skúli Magnússon
 	<p>Skúli Magnússon, The Sheriff (1711-1704) He has been named the father of Reykjavik. He was one of the main messengers of the Enlightenment in Iceland. He was called Skuli the Governor, where he held the office of land commissioner, an official of the King of Denmark. He later became one of the main driving forces behind the establishment of "Innréttingarnar", with the aim of establishing manufacturing production in Iceland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&amp;sl=is&amp;u=https://is.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sk%C3%BAlf_Magn%C3%BAsson&amp;prev=search">https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&amp;sl=is&amp;u=https://is.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sk%C3%BAlf_Magn%C3%BAsson&amp;prev=search</a></li> <li><a href="https://artmuseum.is/news/artwork-week-skuli-magnusson">https://artmuseum.is/news/artwork-week-skuli-magnusson</a></li> </ul> <p>Guðmundur Einarsson (1895-1963) adopted many forms of art, but he was a pioneer in sculpture and pottery. He studied art in Iceland (1911-13 and 1916), Copenhagen (1919-1920) and Munich (1920-1925). Guðmundur was one of the most prominent visual artists in the country. You can find numerous of his works around.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guðmundur_fr%C3%A1_Miðdal">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guðmundur_fr%C3%A1_Miðdal</a></li> </ul>
Waypoint 9	Te og Kaffi


 	<p>Te og kaffi is a Café. They have different varieties of coffee and tea. Here is a good place to sit down and rest your bones.</p>
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Waypoint 10	The Unknown Bureaucrat
 	<p>The Unknown Bueaucrat, the invisible one who carries out his work behind the scenes or the one who cannot get out of the box !!! He was originally placed in the yard behind Hotel Borg but has a worthy place now as he stands in front of Lðnó aiming towards the town hall. <a href="https://www.visir.is/g/2012120919527">https://www.visir.is/g/2012120919527</a></p> <p>Magnús Tómasson (1943-) is an Icelandic artist. After completing junior college, he went to Copenhagen to study at the Royal Academy of Art. There he studied in the painting- and graphics department, as well as in a department called "Wall and Room Art". After graduating, Magnús returned to Iceland, where he became one of the leaders of the SÚM group founded in the 1960's.</p> <p><a href="https://is.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnús_Tómasson">https://is.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnús_Tómasson</a></p>

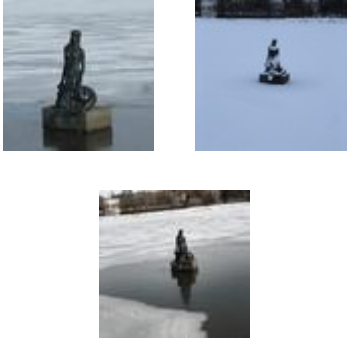
Waypoint 11	The Viking
 	<p>The Viking, a symbol for the first settlers who settled in Iceland at the end of the 9th century and came from Western Norway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.why.is/svar.php?id=5434">https://www.why.is/svar.php?id=5434</a></li> </ul> <p>Sigurjón Ólafsson (1908-1982) was first instructed in art and sculpture in Iceland simultaneously with an apprenticeship house painting. In 1927 he went on to study in Copenhagen at the Royal Academy. In the fall of 1930, he was awarded the Academy Award for the statue of a Laborer. He studied in Rome in 1931–32, and graduated from the Academy in 1935. Many of his works are found in Iceland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="http://www.lso.is/index_e.htm">http://www.lso.is/index_e.htm</a></li> </ul>

Waypoint 12	Adonis
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	<p>Adonis. He is the God of beauty and desire in the Greek mythology. Bertel Thorvaldsen (1770-1844) was a Danish / Icelandic sculptor. Eleven years old he started studies at the School of Art in Copenhagen. He lived most of his life in Italy. His Artwork is known all over Europe and the USA Source: Thorvaldsenmuseum.dk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.grethexis.com/bertel-thorvaldsen-the-dane-master-sculptor-of-greek-art/">http://www.grethexis.com/bertel-thorvaldsen-the-dane-master-sculptor-of-greek-art/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bertel_Thorvaldsen">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bertel_Thorvaldsen</a></li> </ul>
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Waypoint 13	Jónas Hallgrímsson
	<p>Jónas Hallgrímsson (1807-1845) was one of Iceland's most beloved poet. He was a great advocator for preserving the Icelandic language. His birthday, the 16th of November, has been recognized as the "Day of the Icelandic Language". Source: Listasafn Einars Jónssonar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.lej.is/einarjonsson/ferill/">http://www.lej.is/einarjonsson/ferill/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://jonashallgrimsson.is/index.php?page=aviferill-jonasar">https://jonashallgrimsson.is/index.php?page=aviferill-jonasar</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jónas_Hallgr%C3%ADmsson">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jónas_Hallgr%C3%ADmsson</a></li> </ul>

Waypoint 14	The Mermaid
	<p>This statue is a replica of the original which was blown up in 1960; New Year's Day. According to the myth, the mermaid sits on rocks by the sea and lures the seamen to join her, who then perish in her arms. The artist is Nina Sæmundsson (1892-1965). In 1916 to 1920 she studied at the Royal Academy in Denmark. She was the first Icelandic woman to support herself by her artwork. Her best known sculpture is situated over the entrance of the Waldorf Astoria in New York. She worked mostly abroad, longest in USA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://icelandreview.com/jon-gnarr-receives-mermaid/">Jón Gnarr Receives Mermaid - icelandreview.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://hafmeyjan.is/an-icelandic-mermaid-statue-mermaids-of-earth/">Hafmeyjan - an icelandic mermaid statue - Mermaids of Earth</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nina_Sæmundsson">Nína Sæmundsson - Wikipedia</a></li> </ul>

Waypoint 15	A son
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This statue is dedicated to the mother of the artist, and is a symbol of youth. For this sculpture the artist was awarded the Gold medal of the Royal Academy of Art in Copenhagen in 1955. The medal was presented to her by Queen Ingrid of Denmark. The artist, Ólöf Pálsdóttir (1920 - 2018) studied in Denmark, Egypt and Italy. Her husband was an ambassador for Iceland in many countries and she studied and worked there in her art. In 1987 she was made Honorary Member of the Royal British Sculptures Society.

- [Ólöf Pálsdóttir - Wikipedia](#)

### Waypoint 16

### Sculpture



Sculpture, by Gerður Helgadóttir (1928-1975) She studied at the Art and Craft School of Iceland in 1945 and 1946. She then studied in Accademia di Belle arte í Flórens, and Académie de la Grande Chaumiére 1949 – 1950. In 1974 she was awarded the Icelandic Order of the Falcon. The art museum in Kópavogur is named Gerðarsafn in her honour.. Heimildir:

- [https://is.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerður\\_Helgadóttir](https://is.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerður_Helgadóttir)
- <https://is.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerðarsafn>
- <https://gerdarsafn.kopavogur.is/en/the-collection/gerdur-helgadottir>

### Waypoint 17

### The Settler Woman



"The Settler Woman" celebrates strong women of all times. The artist, Gunnfríður Jónsdóttir (1889-1968), was married to one of our best sculptors, Ásmundur Sveinsson and worked in Stockholm, Copenhagen and Berlin for years.

- [https://is.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gunnfr%C3%ADður\\_Jónsdóttir](https://is.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gunnfr%C3%ADður_Jónsdóttir)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gunnfr%C3%ADður\\_Jónsdóttir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gunnfr%C3%ADður_Jónsdóttir)

### Waypoint 18

### Man and Woman



Man and Woman by the artist Tove Ólafsson (1909-1992). Tove was born in Denmark and studied at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Art. She married the sculptor Sigurjón Ólafsson and moved to Iceland. Her work is highly appreciated both here and in Denmark. Source:

- <https://safneign.listasafnreykjavikur.is/is/hofundur/38>
- <https://skulpturguide.hjoerring.dk/kunstnere/o/olafsson-tove>





## Waypoint 19

## Boy and Girl



„Boy and Girl“ is the name of this artwork by Þorbjörg Pálsdóttir (1919-2009). It is subtitled “Kata og Stebbi” who, are youngsters in her family. She studied photography in Reykjavík and studied later on in Stockholm. She was one of the founders of the Icelandic Sculptors Society, founded 1972. Source:

- <https://www.mbl.is/greinasafn/grein/1310900/>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Þorbjörg\\_Pálsdóttir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Þorbjörg_Pálsdóttir)

## Waypoint 20

## The Spell Broken



The Spell Broken. The theme of this work is the spiritual and divine nature of Man. Einar Jónsson (1874-1954 ) studied in Copenhagen for 3 years and spent one year in Rome. Most of his works are in Hnitbjörg, the Einar Jónsson Art museum, situated close to Hallgrímskirkja. Heimildir:

- <http://www.lej.is/einarjonsson/ferill/>
- <http://www.lej.is/en/einar-jonsson/carreer/>

## Waypoint 21

## Poet bench



Poet bench is made by Halla Gunnarsdóttir born (1974-) to honour the “Reykjavik’s poet” Tomas Guðmundsson. She studied in Florence, New York and Paris. Source:

- <https://bokmenntaborgin.is/tjornin-tomas-gudmundsson>
- <https://bokmenntaborgin.is/en/reykjavik-city-lake-tomas-gudmundsson>
- <https://sim.is/halla-gunnarsdottir-look-us/>
- <https://is.linkedin.com/in/halla-gunnarsdottir-715218b8>