

Insiders' tips Iceland Airwaves 2012

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Pórarinn Guðnason

Agent Fresco

To-Do: I would definitely recommend making your own schedule but it's usually hard to stick to it because of queues and unpredictable happenings. But don't worry. There is always something interesting just around the corner and usually the most memorable concerts are the ones you ramble into while walking between venues or strolling around 101.

Bands to watch: The artists I'm eager to see so (without having dug too deep into the roster) are *Ásgeir Trausti* (IS), *Pétur Ben* (IS), *Polica* (US), *Rökkurró* (IS) and *Sóley* (IS).

Beyond Airwaves: The swimming pools in Iceland are fantastic chill out places. And anywhere you go there is almost definitely a hot spring nearby that you can bath in. Here is a list of some hot springs: enjoyiceland.is

Hangover breakfast & hair of the dog: My favorite hangover cure is dish no. 3 at *Krua Thai* on Tryggvagatan. Seriously, you have to try it. If you want something fresh there is a good vegetarian place called *Grænn Kostur* on *Skólavörðustígur*. *Kaffibarinn* is definitely a place for casual drinks during early hours but insane party during the night.

What else: Don't go home too early. This is the best week of the year to party in Iceland so have a great time! Also, the Blue Lagoon party is something you must experience.

Agent Fresco: [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [@mittelstern](#)

Jón Bjarni Pétursson & Haukur H. Hauksson

Dikta

To-Do / Bands to watch: The artist we're not going to miss this year are: *1860*, *Agent Fresco*, *Mammút*, *Ham*, *Dr. Spock*, *Valdimar*, just to name a few "must-sees". Most of all we are probably looking forward to seeing *Ham* and *Dr. Spock*. Those guys are crazy!

Beyond Airwaves: You don't have to go anywhere, Airwaves has it all! Just follow the vibe!

Hangover breakfast & hair of the dog: *Búllan*, *Slippbarinn*, *Bæjarins Bestu*, *Hamborgarafabrikkan*, and last but not least *KFC*.

What else: The party at *Bláa Lónið* is always nice, and at least one good hangover!

Dikta: [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [@mittelstern](#)

Sóley Stefánsdóttir

Sóley, Sin Fang

To-Do: Swimming pool in the day - coffee - off venue gigs - eat good food - concerts at night

Bands to watch: I'm very excited to see *Dirty Projectors*

Beyond Airwaves: Swimming pool (*Vesturbæjarlaugin* or *Sundhöllin*), check out Icelandic fashion - *Kaffismiðjan* - you can also go whale watching or hike a mountain but it might be a bit cold and windy in November so...

Hangover breakfast & hair of the dog: *Grái Kötturinn* for breakfast - *Kaffismiðjan* for coffee - *KEX Hostel* or *Tíu Dropar* for drinks - *Snaps*, *Fishmarket* or *Grænn Kostur* for food.

What else: Don't miss airwaves!

Sóley: [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [@mittelstern](#)

Arnjótur Sigurðsson

Ojba Rasta & Sin Fang

To-Do: I can't help to recommend my band, Ojba Rasta. We just got our debut record out and we are really happy about it!

Besides that, I think that the best thing to do is to relax and go with the flow of every evening. That has always worked best for me. Airwaves is usually making you ask yourself: "Should I stay or should I go?" The answer is: "Go with the flow!" Or "Flow with the go!"

Bands to watch: All the small and inventive young Icelandic artists/bands. The fauna of Icelandic bands is so colorful! I must recommend: The Heavy Experience, Nolo, ThizOne, Geir Helgi and Enkídú.

Beyond Airwaves: Go to the top of Hallgrímskirkja (the church on the top of Reykjavik), the view there is amazing! The old churchyard in the west side. It is in a short walking distance from the center. Can get creepy in the dark. The harbour area is also nice for a walk.

Hangover breakfast & hair of the dog: *Mandí* is my choice for a hangover/party food. Good price and the best Falafel in town. Situated on the same square as Hotel Plaza (the media center for Airwaves where you pick up your wristband/ticket).

I certainly recommend eating at *Á Næstu Grösum*. It is on the main street, Laugavegur. Really good vegetarian food. *Hemmi & Valdi* next door to that is my choice for drinks and *Stofan* (on the same square as Mandí).

What else: Hot dog at *Bæjarins Bestu* and the *Ojba Rasta* vinyl.

Don't forget to take things not too seriously and have fun.

Ojba Rasta: [Soundcloud](#) | [Facebook](#)

Sin Fang: [Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

Bjarki Pjetursson

Vigri

To-Do: There are a lot of great acts this year, as usual. I think that it's very important to be open minded for new bands. The off venues are also a great way to discover new acts.

Bands to watch: I haven't really had the time research all the bands, but I would say I look forward to see *Ewert and The Two Dragons*.

Beyond Airwaves: Mountain Esja is only a 20 minutes bus drive away from the city center. It's a great place to go hiking and to recover from last night.

Hangover breakfast & hair of the dog: *Texas Burgers* it's located near the old harbor just opposite the fisherman's museum.

What else: There are sometimes long queues outside some of the venues so it can help to pick a venue before each night. I think it's important to enjoy the music.

Vigri: [Bandcamp](#) | [Facebook](#) | [@mittelstern](#)

Haraldur Leví Gunnarsson

Record Records

To-Do: You need to see all the great Icelandic music of course. I can recommend visiting our showcase at Harpa on Wednesday night. If you miss it you'll be able to catch all the bands at some other time during the festival.

One of my favorite things during Airwaves is the hangover party at the Blue Lagoon on Saturday. Everyone must try it out!

Bands to watch: There are some great international artists like *Polica*, *Django Django* and many many more along with all the great Icelandic bands.

Beyond Airwaves: All the clubs and record shops! I recommend Lucky Records for all the vinyl perverts.

Hangover breakfast & hair of the dog: *Laundromat Café* for brunch or lunch. *Tommi Burgerjoint* for burgers! The best place for drinks and the best DJ's in town is *Faktorý*.

What else: Just don't miss out on Reykjavik and the whole festival. Then you're good.

Record Records: [Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

Snorri Helgason

To-Do: I always recommend that people study the off-venue schedule for the festival well before they come to Airwaves. You can usually catch most of the bands that are playing at the festival at these off-venue shows. And they are often smaller and more intimate and special. Other than that I can recommend stuffing yer face with as many Icelandic hot-dogs as you can. That is always very pleasant.

Bands to watch: I'd love to be able to see *The Dirty Projectors* if I can find the time. I usually don't see much of the big international bands. I'm usually playing a few times every day and am constantly running around all the time and have little time to see many concerts. I usually end up going to gigs where my friends are playing. I'm looking forward to (and hoping I will be able to) seeing my friends in *Prinspóló*, *Retro Stefson*, *Ojba Rasta*, *Moses Hightower*, *Sin Fang*, *Sóley*, *Tilbury*, *Mr. Silla*, *Ásgeir Trausti*, *Boogie Trouble*, *Borko*, *Fm Belfast*, *Gus Gus*, *Hjálmar*, *Lay Low*, *Ólöf Arnalds*, *Pétur Ben* and more playing if I can :)

Beyond Airwaves: Go swimming! It clears your mind and cleanses your sinful dirty body after a night on the town in good ol' Reykjavík.

Hangover breakfast & hair of the dog: *Kex Hostel*.

What else: Be sure to check out some of the local beers. Many of them are very, very good. *Úlfur* (engl. wolf) is my favorite.

Snorri Helgason: [Soundcloud](#) | [Facebook](#) | [@mittelstern](#)

Lára Rúnarsdóttir

Lára Rúnars

To-Do: Check out the off-venue program. A lot of great artists are doing acoustic sets all over town... I recommend you to see as many Icelandic acts as possible.

Bands to watch: Icelandic: *Mammút* and *Pétur Ben*. Foreign: *Dirty Projectors*

Beyond Airwaves: Relax, don't try to see everything that's interesting but still try to start early. Eat good food, drink good wine. Talk to some crazy Icelanders. Take a swim and sauna, check out the second hand stores and enjoy the atmosphere and vibes Reykjavík has to offer.

Hangover breakfast & hair of the dog: Best brunch: *Vox*, cheap and good dinner: *Noodle Station* on Skólavörðustíg or *Fru Berglaug* on Laugavegur, Drinks: *Boston* or downstairs *Factory*.

What else: Wake up early and walk through town. Enjoy the silence before everything gets crazy.

Lára: [Soundcloud](#) | [Facebook](#) | [@mittelstern](#)