

## 1.1 Why Choose Iceland?

### **Iceland: A Paradox of Isolation and Opportunity**

For those considering a radical shift in lifestyle, Iceland often stands out as a land of stark contrasts and subtle rewards. It's not a country that seduces with superficial ease, but rather one that reveals its depth gradually, through stormy skies, quiet resilience, and unexpected freedoms. This island of fire and ice hosts one of the smallest national economies in Europe, yet its resilience is legendary. Built on a foundation of geothermal power, fishing expertise, tourism magnetism, and a surprisingly robust pharmaceutical industry, Iceland's economy punches above its weight. However, this strength is tempered by volatility. Tourism, which boomed pre-pandemic, remains a critical source of income, but it is also highly seasonal. Winter brings economic slowdowns, and the nation's heavy reliance on imports for everything from food to electronics keeps costs elevated and vulnerable to global supply chain shocks.

The labor market here is, quite literally, tight. Iceland's population hovers around 380,000. That's smaller than most mid-size European cities. Consequently, the job pool is limited, but targeted. Healthcare professionals are in high demand, especially nurses and elderly care workers. Construction continues to boom in and around Reykjavík, driven by housing shortages. Teachers with the right credentials and IT specialists, particularly in cybersecurity and backend systems, can find promising opportunities. For those from outside the EU/EEA, securing a job offer is not just a preference, it's a requirement. The Directorate of Immigration mandates an employment contract before issuing work permits, and positions must be approved as unfillable by locals. That said, Iceland actively invites immigration where domestic skills are lacking.

Yet, one cannot talk about Iceland without addressing the cost of existence. Reykjavík ranks consistently among the most expensive cities in Europe for both rent and groceries. A modest one-bedroom apartment can easily devour over half of a nurse's net income. Software developers earn significantly more, often in the range of 600,000–750,000 ISK per month after taxes, but still report feeling financial pressure due to the high price of housing, food, and fuel. Freelancers, especially those without a steady foreign income stream, may struggle unless they've already built a cushion. The country's purchasing power is deceptive: salaries are relatively high, but so are deductions and baseline expenses.

Despite these financial hurdles, Iceland offers one of the most humane work-life balances in the developed world. The standard full-time work week ranges from 37 to 40 hours. Overtime is tightly regulated and compensated, not normalized. Workers are entitled to a minimum of 24 days of paid vacation, not including national holidays. Parents can share up to 12 months of paid leave following the birth or adoption of a child, with a strong cultural expectation that both partners will participate equally. It's not unusual to see fathers pushing strollers in central Reykjavík on weekday afternoons, thanks to the state's parental leave structure. Much of this is reinforced through collective bargaining, as union membership is widespread and powerful across all sectors.

Iceland's global rankings only deepen its allure for those seeking a socially progressive haven. It regularly tops the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Index. It's also a global leader in press freedom and environmental performance, with extremely low levels of air and water pollution. Safety levels are high across the board, violent crime is rare, police rarely carry firearms, and walking alone at night is not considered reckless but routine. Corruption levels remain impressively low; Transparency International ranks Iceland among the least corrupt countries in the world, though the 2008 financial crisis did dent public trust in institutions temporarily.

Geography and climate, however, are not for the faint-hearted. Iceland is a maritime subarctic zone, where the weather changes by the hour and storms are part of the weekly rhythm. Winters are long, dark, and psychologically taxing, with daylight dwindling to just 3–4 hours in Reykjavík by December. The flipside is summer, with near-endless daylight and midnight hikes under a glowing sky. UV exposure can be deceptive due to snow reflection, leading to a surprising rate of sunburns and chronic vitamin D deficiency. The silver lining: no mosquitoes, minimal allergens, and some of the cleanest air you'll ever breathe.

Infrastructure in Iceland is practical rather than expansive. There is no train network, and public transport is limited to buses in urban areas and some intercity connections. The vast majority of residents own cars, and Road 1, the ring road circling the island, is the country's main artery. In remote areas, ferries link coastal towns, and small regional airports handle short-haul flights that would otherwise be blocked by impassable mountain passes. Don't expect high-speed rail or ride-sharing apps, but do expect well-maintained roads and quick emergency services where it counts.

For those wondering about legal entry, the rules depend heavily on nationality. EU and EEA citizens benefit from free movement agreements and can relocate without a visa. They must, however, register with Registers Iceland within three months and apply for a Kennitala (national ID number), which unlocks everything from healthcare to housing contracts. Non-EEA nationals face a tougher path. Residence permits are quota-limited, require a job offer, and come with a multi-step application via the Directorate of Immigration (Utlendingastofnun), including notarized documents and certified Icelandic translations. Processing times for permits can stretch up to 12 weeks. A digital nomad visa does exist, but it's technically a long-stay tourist visa, available only to remote employees of companies based outside the Schengen zone, with proof of income over 1 million ISK per month.

In sum, Iceland is not a place you stumble into. It requires intention, patience, and adaptation. The cost of living is high, but so is the quality of life. The weather is brutal, but the society is kind. Opportunities exist, but only for those willing to navigate the bureaucracy and cultural codes. If you're drawn to solitude, structure, and the raw power of nature, Iceland doesn't just offer a new life, it demands a new mindset.

## 1.2 What to Expect in Practice

### **Beyond the Brochures: What Living in Iceland Actually Feels Like**

Arriving in Iceland as a newcomer isn't like unlocking a door, it's more like slowly unfreezing it with your breath. No matter how many guides you've read, there's a gulf between knowing what's required on paper and navigating what it feels like in practice. The administrative terrain here moves at its own pace, and even the most organized expat will find themselves waiting, for permits, appointments, answers, and, more often than not, for clarity.

The first unavoidable step for any non-Icelandic resident is the acquisition of the holy trinity: a residence permit, a Kennitala, and access to the national health system. For third-country nationals, securing a residence permit is a slow affair, with processing times hovering between 6 to 12 weeks, depending on volume and how meticulously you submit your documents. This isn't a mere formality: incomplete files, missing apostilles, or non-certified Icelandic translations will bounce your application back into administrative limbo. Once approved, registering with Þjóðskrá (Registers Iceland) for your Kennitala usually takes about a week, but only after you've presented physical documents in person. Health insurance registration follows, taking an additional 2–3 weeks to activate. None of this is instantaneous, and you can't rent long-term, sign up for a mobile plan, or get paid legally without that elusive national ID.

During those first months, your financial reality might hit faster than the Gulf Stream winds. While gross salaries might look respectable, they shrink quickly after deductions. Expect to lose 35 to 45 percent of your pay to income tax, pension contributions, and union fees. Nurses, for instance, often take home around 350,000 ISK monthly. Developers might reach 600,000 to 750,000 ISK net. But even on a "good" income, costs add up swiftly. Rent for a one-bedroom in Reykjavík hovers between 150,000 and 250,000 ISK, depending on location and condition. Grocery bills for a single adult can reach 80,000 ISK or more monthly. Then there's heating, essential in this climate and billed separately, plus the seasonal sting of insulation that doesn't quite insulate.

You'll also need to temper your expectations when dealing with Icelandic bureaucracy. Many services aren't fully digitized, and those that are still often require some level of in-person verification. Booking an appointment at Utlendingastofnun (the Directorate of Immigration) or Þjóðskrá can take weeks, and cancellations are not rare. You'll need to get used to printing documents, waiting in lobbies, and calling helplines that rarely answer on the first try. Expect a lot of systems to default to Icelandic, even if you select English. And no matter how smooth the online form looks, chances are someone, somewhere, still expects a physical signature with an original stamped copy in a plastic folder.

That sense of friction isn't just bureaucratic, it's cultural. The Icelandic communication style is indirect, minimalist, and laced with a sarcasm that's bone-dry and often indecipherable to foreigners. "Maybe" frequently means "no," but no one will tell you that outright. Silence in a conversation isn't discomfort, it's punctuation. Social circles are deeply rooted, often formed during childhood, and loyalty runs deep. It's not that Icelanders are unfriendly; it's that they're not performatively friendly. High-trust society doesn't equate to emotional openness. You'll feel safe long before you feel seen.

Hidden costs are the silent predators of your first year. Aside from high rents, you'll likely be asked for a two- or three-month deposit upfront, sometimes alongside a non-refundable agency fee. If the lease requires notarization, that's another chunk gone. Insurance for your home, even a modest flat, is a requirement and typically not included. Heating is always billed separately and spikes in winter. Private dental care is rarely covered by the state, and it's not cheap: expect to pay 15,000 to 25,000 ISK per visit. If you buy a car, winter tires are mandatory from November to April and can cost upwards of 100,000 ISK for a full set. The net result: even after your salary clears, you may find your buffer eroding rapidly.

Language is the final gatekeeper, and perhaps the hardest. While Icelanders speak excellent English, integration doesn't happen in English. Public announcements, legal documents, and most apps or service portals are Icelandic-first. Even in Reykjavík, many employers outside of tech, tourism, or academia expect at least conversational proficiency. Courses exist, both public and private, but the learning curve is steep: complex grammar, multiple cases, unfamiliar phonetics. You can function without the language, but you won't belong. And that distinction matters.

Building a genuine social life takes time and patience. Friendships in Iceland are not handed out, they're earned. Volunteering is one of the most effective ways to break through the surface layer of acquaintanceship. Whether it's helping at a food bank, joining a community gardening group, or supporting language cafés, the shared experience tends to fast-track trust. Likewise, your workplace may become your primary social entry point, if your colleagues are Icelandic and not just other expats. Still, don't expect to be invited for coffee or dinner in the first month. Or even the first six. Most newcomers describe their first year as lonely, even if their Instagram says otherwise.

Ultimately, life in Iceland rewards the steady, not the impulsive. This is a country that favors planning, presence, and persistence over charisma or speed. The paperwork will frustrate you. The cold will bite. The silences will echo. But if you can resist the urge to expect immediate comfort or connection, something remarkable happens. You begin to find rhythm in the delays, dignity in the quiet, and clarity in the slow, deliberate unfolding of a life less ordinary. The transformation doesn't happen at the airport. It begins when you stop resisting the friction, and start listening to what it's teaching you.

## 1.3 Quick Cultural Overview

### **Between Silence and Sagas: Understanding Icelandic Culture at a Glance**

To step into Iceland is to step into a culture that feels, at first, like it's whispering. The gestures are small, the speech restrained, the laughter dry and often late. But beneath that muted exterior lies a society built on some of the most radical values in Europe, equality, self-reliance, and a quiet, almost religious, respect for nature. These aren't buzzwords; they're the unspoken codes that shape every interaction, every policy, every invisible boundary between insider and outsider.

Equality isn't just a principle here; it's the operating system. Iceland's approach to social equity is woven into daily life. From the workplace to the home, hierarchies are flat and formalities are few. Teachers are addressed by first name, so are CEOs and ministers. No one is too important to be questioned or too humble to be heard. Yet this egalitarianism doesn't come with grand declarations, it operates in silence. Status signaling is frowned upon. Excess is met with suspicion. The ideal Icelander is modest, competent, and capable of managing their own affairs without drama or display.

Humility and stoicism are twin pillars of the national psyche. You won't see emotional outbursts in public spaces. Icelanders handle crises with the same tone they use to discuss the weather: factual, calm, slightly ironic. This isn't coldness, it's containment. There's a deep-rooted belief that emotional control is a form of strength. Suffering, when it occurs, is borne in private and rarely used as social currency. Complaining is considered undignified, and resilience is measured in silence, not performance.

Nature is not a backdrop here, it's a moral force. The land is raw, alive, and taken seriously. Icelanders do not treat their environment as a playground or a branding tool. Hiking is not a trend but a tradition. Children grow up understanding how to read weather maps, how to dress for sudden snowstorms, how to coexist with wind that seems to come from under your skin. The reverence is practical, not romantic. If you damage the moss, you'll be scolded. If you drive off-road, you'll be fined. Nature is to be respected, not conquered.

Communication in Iceland is its own dialect of minimalism. Small talk exists, but just barely. You might go an entire conversation without a direct compliment or a warm affirmation. When people speak, they tend to do so with intent, and often with an edge of dry humor that can be easily missed by newcomers. Bluntness is not considered rude; it's valued as honesty. What feels like a cold response may actually be a sign of trust. There's no filler, no flourishes. People get to the point, and then they leave you alone.

The country's approach to gender is refreshingly unceremonious. Equality between men and women isn't a political ideal, it's a social expectation. Parental leave is equally divided and culturally supported. Fathers take strollers to work without commentary. Women dominate in politics and business without tokenism. Since 2010, same-sex marriage has been fully legal and normalized. LGBTQ+ rights are not just enshrined in law but respected in practice. Public visibility and acceptance are high, particularly in Reykjavík, where queer spaces blend seamlessly into mainstream life without having to scream for recognition.

Urban Iceland and rural Iceland feel like cousins who grew up on different planets. Reykjavík is dense with ideas, internationalism, and espresso-fueled subcultures. Artists, students, digital nomads, and environmentalists gather in cafés that double as libraries or knitting circles. The city hosts music festivals, drag shows, and literary salons with casual flair. In contrast, the countryside moves to a slower, more ancestral rhythm. Villages are tight-knit, sometimes insular. Traditions are upheld, from community dinners to sheep roundups. Religion may play a larger role, and outsiders, especially those who don't speak the language, might find it harder to integrate beyond surface-level courtesy.

Still, there are cultural constants that bridge the geographic gaps. Every Icelander carries a mental archive of the Sagas, epic tales of betrayal, endurance, and revenge that shape national identity as much as any constitution. These stories are not relics; they are living references, quoted in modern conversation or echoed in local disputes. Þorrablót, the midwinter festival of fermented foods, sheep's heads, and brennivín shots, is both a culinary dare and a collective memory. It's not just about what's eaten, but about who's at the table, and whether you stay until the end.

The Icelandic horse is another cultural marker that transcends tourism. These small, sturdy creatures are symbols of endurance and pride. They're not to be referred to as "ponies", a linguistic faux pas that will earn you a swift correction. Horses are part of the landscape, part of the folklore, part of the nation's identity. Just like the Yule Lads, mischievous troll-like figures who replace Santa Claus in Icelandic tradition. Each lad has a distinct personality, and children leave their shoes out in December not for a single mythical figure, but for thirteen mischievous visitors with stories older than the Republic itself.

Perhaps most tellingly, Iceland publishes more books per capita than any other country in the world. Reading isn't an elite hobby, it's a democratic pleasure. Book releases peak at Christmas in a national phenomenon known as the "Jólabókaflóð," or Christmas Book Flood. Conversations at dinner parties are just as likely to include literary references as they are weather forecasts or geothermal stats. Writing is not a profession reserved for the few, it's a cultural reflex.

In the end, Icelandic culture isn't flashy. It doesn't seduce or cater. It waits. It tests. It reveals itself slowly, through the unspoken rules, the long pauses, the shared silences. If you're looking for warmth in tone, you may miss the warmth in action. But once you understand the cadence, the understatement, the depth beneath the still surface, you'll find yourself adjusting, not by shouting louder, but by listening more closely. This isn't a culture of performance. It's a culture of presence.

## 1.4 Political Environment & Freedoms

### Liberty in Layers: Iceland's Quiet Political Strength

Iceland's political landscape is a study in paradox: minimalist yet vigilant, informal yet anchored in institutional depth. It doesn't trumpet its freedoms or wave flags of exceptionalism, but it protects them with quiet, consistent rigor. At first glance, the system seems almost too simple. A parliamentary republic, Iceland is governed by a single-chamber parliament, the Alþingi, one of the oldest surviving parliaments in the world. The president exists, but largely in ceremony, cutting ribbons, delivering holiday speeches, occasionally mediating political deadlocks, but rarely wielding executive power. The real decisions happen in the hands of the prime minister and the coalition government, typically composed of two or three parties in carefully negotiated alliances. Elections are held every four years, and while voter turnout has declined slightly in recent decades, participation remains higher than in most Western democracies.

Checks and balances function effectively, though not noisily. Icelanders tend to place strong trust in democratic institutions, but not blind trust. Oversight committees within parliament and independent regulators ensure that executive power does not go unchecked. Yet the system also relies heavily on civic expectation. Icelandic democracy is sustained as much by cultural values, transparency, modesty, accountability, as it is by legislation. It is a small country, and that intimacy makes power more visible. A minister can be stopped at the bakery by a constituent, and it wouldn't be strange.

The judiciary maintains independence from the political branches, but like many aspects of Icelandic life, it moves slowly. Civil litigation, especially, can drag on for months or even years. The backlog is real, and speed is not its forte. More frustrating for foreigners is the language barrier within the court system. Even if your entire dispute involves English-language documents and participants, Icelandic remains the only language of legal procedure. This means certified translations are not only preferred, they're mandatory. Legal costs can rise rapidly when every motion or affidavit needs to be rendered in flawless Icelandic by a state-approved translator.

Despite such friction, civil rights in Iceland are robust and well-anchored in both law and public consciousness. The right to protest is protected, and peaceful demonstrations, especially on environmental issues or women's rights, are a regular feature of Reykjavík life. Privacy is taken seriously, and data protection laws reflect European GDPR standards, with some additional local caution built in. Internet freedom is among the highest in the world. Websites aren't censored, surveillance is minimal, and whistleblowers face less risk than in many larger states. Freedom of speech is not just a principle; it's a practice, visible in the press, in satire, and in public life.

LGBTQ+ rights are more than a checkbox here. They are woven into everyday governance. Legal protections include marriage equality, anti-discrimination statutes, access to transition-related healthcare, and the right to change one's gender marker without surgical requirements. Reykjavík holds one of the most visible and celebrated Pride events in the Nordic region, and queer public figures occupy space in media and politics without sensationalism. For queer families, adoption rights, parental recognition, and access to assisted reproduction are equal under law.

Media in Iceland reflects the same tight-yet-transparent dynamic found across other institutions. The landscape is small, naturally, it's a nation of under 400,000 people. Yet within that size exists surprising diversity. Public broadcaster RÚV operates with high trust and editorial independence, offering news, investigative reporting, and cultural content that's widely respected. Alongside it are private outlets like *Vísir* and *Morgunblaðið*, which vary in tone and orientation. While ownership concentration is a concern, some media groups control multiple platforms, journalistic integrity is generally preserved, and public pressure quickly rises if lines are crossed.

The ghost of 2008 still haunts Icelandic politics. The financial crash, which brought down major banks and shook global markets, also shattered illusions of elite competence. Since then, Icelanders have remained alert to the dangers of cronyism and unchecked ambition. Politicians are regularly scrutinized, not only by the press but by the public itself. Scandals, when they occur, tend to spark swift consequences, from resignations to parliamentary inquiries. That said, transparency laws are not infallible. They exist, yes, but enforcement can be patchy, especially in the less-visible corners of municipal governance or in public procurement. Watchdogs exist, but so does discretion.

What sets Iceland apart isn't the absence of political flaws, it's the society's reflex to hold power accountable without spectacle. You won't find many fiery speeches or populist soundbites dominating the national dialogue. Icelanders prefer substance over style, and political debates are often strikingly calm, even during moments of disagreement. This doesn't mean they're apolitical, just the opposite. But their engagement is filtered through practicality, not ideology. The political center remains strong, and extremism, left or right, struggles to gain traction.

In day-to-day life, politics rarely feel oppressive or overbearing. Citizens are expected to know their rights, trust institutions, but also to keep them in check. The tone is neither rebellious nor compliant, it's pragmatic. When a law doesn't work, Icelanders will often just work around it informally while waiting for parliament to catch up. But when rights are threatened, even subtly, the response can be swift and collective.

Ultimately, Iceland's political environment is one of those rare systems where trust is earned not through slogans, but through the quiet consistency of function. Freedoms aren't screamed from rooftops, they're simply lived. And in a world where liberty is increasingly tied to polarization or spectacle, there's something deeply radical in a country that chooses neither, and still manages to protect what matters.

## 1.5 Social Fractures & Tensions

### Cracks Beneath the Ice: Iceland's Quiet Social Fault Lines

From a distance, Iceland projects an image of unity and balance, low crime, high trust, a society small enough to know itself. But beneath the polished data and international accolades lies a network of subtle fractures that complicate that portrait. They don't explode; they simmer. And if you listen closely enough, especially as a foreigner living here, you'll start to hear the hum of tension running just below the surface.

One of the most persistent divides in Iceland is geographical. The Westfjords and Eastern regions, though breathtakingly beautiful, are slowly emptying out. Populations have been shrinking for years, as young people gravitate toward Reykjavík for work, education, and social life. The cost of maintaining public services in these sparsely populated zones is high, and the result is an uneven distribution of access. Healthcare is one of the clearest examples, some towns rely on part-time clinics or visiting specialists, and pregnant women may have to travel hours for delivery. Higher education options are also clustered in the capital, forcing many rural students to uproot or abandon aspirations altogether.

This regional imbalance feeds into broader frustrations about national policy. Locals in these outlying areas often feel forgotten, spoken for rather than consulted. Infrastructure projects lag. Emergency services are stretched thin. And while the government touts its green energy achievements, the benefits often remain centralized. Tourists may pass through the Westfjords for the scenery, but few stay long enough to understand the quiet erosion of rural opportunity.

Layered on top of these regional tensions is the complex position of ethnic minorities in Iceland. The largest foreign communities hail from Poland, Lithuania, and the Philippines, many of whom arrived during labor shortages in construction, healthcare, or service industries. Their contribution to the economy is significant, but their social integration remains uneven. The quality of support services, language training, cultural orientation, housing assistance, varies wildly by municipality. Reykjavík might offer dedicated liaisons and integration grants, while smaller towns rely on word-of-mouth or nothing at all.

Many foreign workers find themselves in a social no-man's-land: essential to the functioning of Iceland's labor market, but still perceived as outsiders. Accent, surname, or skin color can subtly shape everything from job interviews to rental negotiations. There's no overt hostility in most cases, but inclusion tends to be logistical rather than emotional. A job might be offered, a contract signed, but the deeper invitation into Icelandic society rarely follows. For many migrants, the island feels safe, functional, but emotionally closed.

Nowhere are these tensions more visible than in the housing crisis gripping Reykjavík. The capital is small, and space is limited, but the demand keeps rising. Airbnb, while profitable for property owners, has gutted the long-term rental market. Apartments that once housed students or low-income families are now short-term havens for tourists willing to pay twice the price. New construction is slow, expensive, and often aimed at higher-end buyers or speculative investors. For students, young professionals, and migrants, the result is a compromise: shared flats with strangers, converted basements, or couchsurfing until something opens up. Privacy becomes a luxury, and security a coin toss.

This scarcity intensifies the pressure on anyone trying to start over. Immigrants are often the last to be picked for decent rentals. Landlords may demand multiple months of deposit, proof of employment, or even Icelandic references, requirements many new arrivals can't meet. It becomes not just a logistical challenge but a social sorting mechanism, quietly reinforcing who gets to belong comfortably and who lives in survival mode.

Even religion, often an afterthought in secular societies, reveals quiet divisions here. The Church of Iceland is still state-supported, and everyone is automatically registered unless they actively opt out. Yet most citizens do not regularly attend services, and belief is more cultural than devotional. At the same time, there's a small but intriguing resurgence of Ásatrúarfélagið, the modern revival of Norse paganism. It's not just cosplay; it has legal status, wedding rites, and a growing following, particularly among those drawn to nature spirituality or cultural heritage. Meanwhile, Muslims, Buddhists, and Christians from immigrant communities carve out space for worship quietly, sometimes without official buildings or full legal recognition.

Beneath all these layers lies a deeper, more elusive fracture: the unspoken trauma of the 2008 financial crash. Though the economy recovered on paper, the psychological blow was immense. Trust in politicians, bankers, and regulators took a permanent hit. Icelanders who once believed in the system became skeptical, cynical even. Elitism and nepotism are still called out, sometimes in whispers, sometimes in protests, but rarely confronted structurally. The perception that “some people still protect their own” persists, even as transparency laws are updated and reforms introduced. In a country this small, power always has a face, and sometimes, a familiar surname.

Immigration, once a largely functional topic, is now increasingly politicized. As more migrants settle permanently, questions arise about identity, resource allocation, and cultural preservation. Iceland’s population is growing, but not always on Iceland’s terms. Conservative voices argue for stricter controls or language requirements. Progressive ones push for inclusion and citizenship reform. The tension is quiet, but growing. And while hate crimes remain rare, microaggressions and institutional bias are harder to dismiss.

Yet despite these fractures, Iceland’s strength lies in its capacity for self-reflection. This is a society that doesn’t panic when confronted with its own flaws. It listens. It debates. It adjusts, even if slowly. The cracks are real, but so is the will to keep the structure standing. For newcomers, the key is to acknowledge the fractures without fearing them. To recognize that beneath the beauty and order, there are negotiations still unfolding, about belonging, power, memory, and change.

You won’t hear these conversations on the first day. But live here long enough, and you’ll start to feel them, in the silences, the half-smiles, the shrug of someone who knows more than they’ll say. Iceland’s unity is not a myth. It’s just more complicated than the slogans suggest.