

# CANOPY BY HILTON REFLECTS MODERN REYKJAVIK

*Boutique brand focused on creating a community vibe*



ROCHELLE LASH  
Hotel Intel

Iceland is consistently rated as one of the greenest, friendliest, and happiest countries in the world and the Canopy by Hilton Reykjavik City Centre embraces all that.

Canopy by Hilton is an upbeat boutique brand that focuses on a cool vibe and community engagement.

A true citizen of the neighbourhood, Canopy by Hilton Reykjavik City Centre operates on a tiny cobblestone street in a cluster of repurposed buildings that once were factories, a music venue and an arts workshop.

The Canopy by Hilton emerged a stylish hotel that is part of Reykjavik's surge in contemporary culture, cuisine, tourism, and environmental ventures. It stands out for the Geiri Smart Restaurant, one of Reykjavik's most creative epicurean scenes, as well as a 24-hour café, 112 attractive rooms and suites, and eco-measures like energy efficiency, water conservation, and recycled key cards.

**Design:** The locally-designed interiors sport such natural materials as wide-planked wooden floors and handsome leather Scandi furniture mixed with industrial accents like ironwork and concrete.

The walls are a gallery of thrilling avant-garde posters and photographs, and the library is an ode to Iceland, with antique sagas, framed Norse poems and art books. For a touch of retro,



One of the many stylish amenities the Canopy by Hilton Reykjavik City Centre in Iceland offers is a lounge with a poet's corner. CANOPY BY HILTON REYKJAVIK CITY CENTRE

you can spin vintage vinyl from Brahms to Björk and borrow a portable record player for your room.

Rooms are light and bright, with decor in the blue of the ocean and greys of volcanic rocks. High points include deluxe Canopy by Hilton bedding, good-sized bathrooms and coffee corners with Nespresso. Some upgraded rooms have views of Faxa Bay and others have private terraces.

Blackout shades just might be the most important amenity, at least in summer when the mid-night sun keeps the Northern sky light through the night.

**Dining:** Iceland is a pricey, high-quality country, but Geiri Smart at Canopy by Hilton has a few ways to save. One break throughout Iceland is that restaurant tips usually are included. Geiri Smart has kids' choices and an all-day menu with burgers, seafood linguine

and charcuterie, as well as happy hour bites.

The breakfast buffet — more than enough to get you through the day — is a beautifully crafted choice of eggs, pastries, granola, fruit and treats like salmon cured in-house and a Canopy by Hilton wellness shooter spiced with ginger.

Dinner is the tour de force. Geiri Smart prides itself on farm- and ocean-fresh ingredients for a menu of Iceland-meets-the world, plus a cold-climate wine list and fabulous cocktails.

The pre-theatre dinner consists of two courses for about \$60, and a three-course daily menu costs about \$90 for a feast of seafood soup, grilled beef and chocolate lava cake.

Dinner à la carte might feature starters of salmon tartare, pork belly, tiger prawns, beef carpaccio and creamy seafood soup, which is an Icelandic specialty. Main courses include filet of

lamb (the national dish), fish of the day (or fish 'n' chips, another Icelandic favourite) and grilled Korean chicken. On the casual side there are rib-eye hamburgers or seafood linguine (geirismart.is).

**What to do:** Iceland's tourism is booming, with as many as 2.3 million visitors expected in 2023 in a country counting little more than 375,000 residents.

Local experiences start right outside the door. The hotel supplies bikes for use on the many cycling paths, including a scenic one along the Old Harbour.

Laugavegur Street also is steps away. Here you'll find fashion boutiques at all price points and bars with Icelandic potables, as well as a Reykjavik tourism centre.

Nearby landmarks include Hallgrímskirkja Church, the National Museum of Iceland and the innovative Reykjavik City Hall, which is partly submerged

## IF YOU GO

■ Air Canada flies directly to Reykjavik's Keflavik Airport, from both Montreal (YUL-KEF) and Toronto (YYZ-KEF), approximately June to October. Bell offers new free messaging for Aeroplan members on most flights (aircanada.com).

**Canopy by Hilton Reykjavik City Centre:** 354-528-7000, hilton.com/en/brands/canopy-by-hilton. Smíðjustigur 4, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland. Hilton Honors/Hilton app. Accessible. Hilton also operates Iceland Parliament Hotel, Curio Collection by Hilton; Reykjavik Konsulat Hotel, Curio Collection by Hilton; and Hilton Reykjavik Nordica.

**Price:** Prices are approximate, from \$580 Cdn in summer and from \$330 Cdn in winter. Including bicycles, Wi-Fi, gym, Nespresso/Dam-mann Frères tea, bathrobes, mini-fridge. Advance bookings save up to 17 per cent. CARP / CAA discounts.

**Tourism:** visiticeland.com, visitreykjavik.is

in water as an eco-venture. Harpa, the eye-popping performance hall, also represents the sophisticated new Reykjavik. It's home to the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra, the Icelandic Opera, the Reykjavik Big Band and on the lighter side, the long-running comedy hit, How to Become Icelandic in 60 Minutes (harpa.is).

For a fascinating look back, the Viking World Museum displays the Icелander, a magnificent Viking ship replica. Gunnar Eggertsson, master ship builder and renowned sea captain, a descendant of Leif Erikson, built the Icелander by hand and sailed to New York in 2000 to commemorate Erikson's historic voyage to the New World of 1,000 years before (vikingworld.is).




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- AMAZON REVIEW



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