



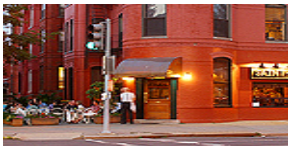
www.iceland.org/us

Biometric Passports needed in October 2006

The United States has pushed back the implementation of rules regarding all travelers from visa waiver states, requiring so-called biometric passports. The date of implementation will be pushed back to October 2006, instead of October 2005 as earlier planned. The biometric passports should not be confused with the electronically readable passports, see also www.iceland.org/us

Nordic Foreign Ministers support Iraq

On June 21, The Foreign Ministers of the five Nordic Countries made a joint statement on the issue of Iraq. In it, the Ministers unequivocally supported the rebuilding of Iraq, and argued that a lasting international commitment is required to give the Iraqis a chance to create a democratic, prosperous country.



Icelandic Beer in Washington D.C.

The proprietors of Café Saint-Ex in Washington D.C., see picture above, have started importing and serving Icelandic Thule and Viking beers, brewed by Vífilfell in Iceland. Café Saint-Ex is located on the corner of 14 Street and U Street in northwest Washington D.C., see also their website www.saint-ex.com and www.arctic-imports.com

Icelandic Chairmanship in CBSS

Iceland will be in Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) for one year, from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. This is the first time Iceland takes over the Chair, since joining CBSS in 1995. Iceland will put energy issues on its list of priorities, especially the use of new and renewable energy sources and sustainable use of energy.

Icelandic Golf Tournament in Chicago

The Greater Chicago Icelandic Open will be held August 6 at Marquette Park, 6700 S. Kedzie Avenue. Contact: Mr. Steinsson, (773)489-4621, ainarandlena@ameritech.net

Icelandic PM to visit North-Dakota

Mr. Halldor Asgrimsson, Iceland's PM, will attend the Iceland Day Celebration in Mountain, North Dakota, on July 29-31, see www.august2nd.com/events.html

President Grimsson visited Utah

On June 23 -25, the President of Iceland, Mr. Ólafur Ragnar Grimsson, attended the Sesquicentennial Celebrations of Icelanders in Utah. During his visit, the President met with decedents of the Icelandic settlers; Utah Governor Mr. Jon M. Huntsman Jr. and Senator Orrin Hatch. He also attended the dedication of a memorial and history center dedicated to the memory of the original 420 Icelandic immigrants to Utah.

National Day Celebration in D.C.

Saturday June 18, the Icelandic Association of Washington D.C. held its annual National Day celebration at the residence of Ambassador Helgi Ágústsson and his wife Hervör Jónsdóttir. The Association's members served up various Icelandic delicacies such as flatbread with smoked lamb and traditional Icelandic pancakes.

Icelandic Food in D.C. and on PBS

Icelandic food and beverages played a focal role when The Association of Washington D.C. Restaurateurs held their annual gala last June. Icelandic master chefs dazzled the guests by serving Icelandic delicacies. On June 2, PBS screened a documentary on sustainable Iceland called "Chefs a Field", focusing on eco-friendly farming, fishing and tourism in Iceland.



Batman Begins – In Iceland, actually!

One of the summer blockbuster movies, Batman Begins, premiered on June 15. The movie is partly filmed on location in Iceland. The major stars of the movie descended on Iceland last year for the filming of the scenes that show Bruce Wayne's legendary transformation into Batman.

Personnel Changes at the Embassy

After six months in D.C., Mr. Hreinn Pálsson, the Embassy's trainee, is leaving for Iceland. The Embassy thanks Mr. Pálsson for his dedicated service and wishes him all the best in new assignments.