



ICELAND

**EXCURSION 10/2021
LEISURE AND TOURISM
MANAGEMENT**



HOST

Hochschule Stralsund

University of
Applied Sciences

PREFACE

After perceived eternity, Leisure and Tourism Management conducted a real-life excursion once again: in October 2021, 47 students traveled to Iceland and attended to the island nation's tourism that has seen substantial growth and success in recent years, yet also raising overtourism risks. It was very interesting to see how various tourism actors shape the industry, and how they assess their current and future situation.

Besides breathtaking nature and a creative population committed to mastering the pandemic challenge, particularly in-depth conversations such as the following ones will last in memory: a hotel manager talked about how he ended up in his job and now assumes responsibility as a leader. A minister (then in charge for economic affairs including tourism; Minister of Foreign Affairs since November 2021), devoted ample time to discuss tourism policy and the cooperation with diverse stakeholders. Furthermore, she shared her experience and challenges as one of the youngest female ministers in the political arena. Park rangers and entrepreneurs narrated their work in invaluable nature and their beginnings in quasi-wilderness with little infrastructure.

These and many other encounters generated appreciation of how tourism is lived and organized, of how lectured theory gets meaningful in practical contexts. They formed a vivid learning space and triggered manifold reflections. Most of the field trip participants want to return to the "land of fire and ice" eventually.

We would like to thank Thilo Kirsch for making this excursion truly unique and all people who took their time for discussion and to provide manifold insights.

Prof. Dr. Volker Rundshagen
Program Director

Anne Christiansen
Program Manager

CONTENT

Appointments	5
Hotel Klettur	5
University of Iceland	6-7
Visit Iceland	8-10
Arctic Adventures.....	11-12
Government of Iceland	13-14
Secret Lagoon.....	15-16
Trex Company	17-18
Glacier Lagoon.....	19-21
Vatnajökulsþjóðgarður.....	22-23
Herríðarhóll Farm.....	24-25

Our Route 26

 Tuesday27-31

 Wednesday..... 32

 Thursday..... 33

 Friday.....34-35

 Thilo Kirsch 36

 Saturday37-39

 Departure 40

Favorite Attraction 41

Icelandic 42

The Northern Lights..... 43

Memories.....44-49

Imprint 50

HOTEL KLETTUR

On the first day of our trip, we had an appointment at Hotel Klettur. They bought the Hotel Cabin in 2004, where we stayed at the beginning and the end of our trip. They have many collaborations with different tour operators or OTAs like Booking or Expedia.

The volcano eruption in 2010 helped many hotels due to the huge tourist rush. The special thing about Hotel Cabin was that it offers the best price option, which is of great importance for many people in such an expensive country. At the same time, this also brings problems as many tourists only stay 1-2 nights and then move on. These are the most expensive guests. The goal for the hotel in the next few years is for tour operators to change their itineraries so that guests have a longer stay in Reykjavik and spend more time in the hotels.

In addition to Hotel Cabin and Klettur, the owner also owns Hotel Ork, which is located on the south coast of Iceland. This is a slightly more upscale hotel that is also mainly used by travelers for short periods of time. We spent one night at Hotel Ork during our trip along the south coast.

A week after our visit, they even opened their fourth hotel. The Marriott Hotel, a 5-star hotel right in the center of Reykjavik.



(+354) 440 1600



booking@hotelklettur.is



University of Iceland



https://english.hi.is/university_of_iceland



UNIVERSITY
OF ICELAND



+354 525 4000



hi@hi.is



https://english.hi.is/university_of_iceiland

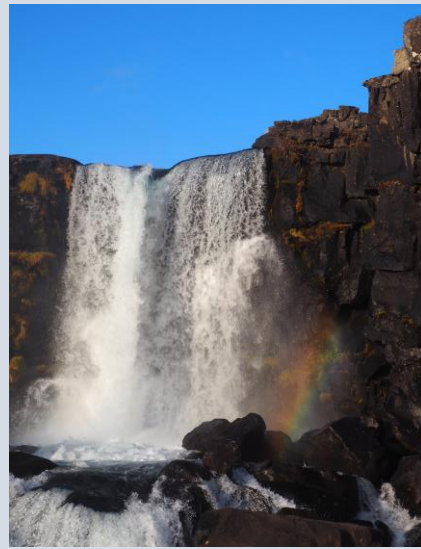
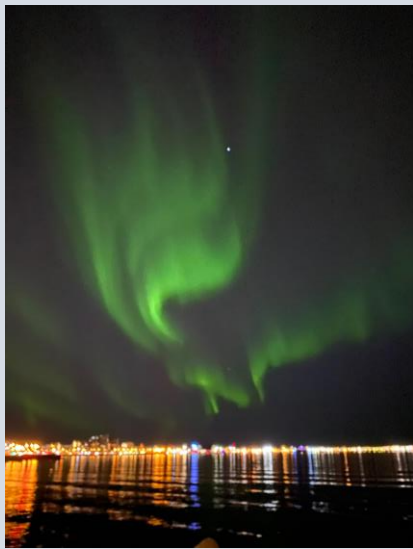
After spending the morning at Hotel Klettur, we went straight to the University of Iceland. There we met up with a nice, German-speaking professor who told us a lot about studying in Iceland.

Given the fact that we have to complete a semester abroad during our studies, this topic was very important to us. Iceland is a very interesting country, especially for tourism students, because tourism plays a huge role here, but also because Iceland is one of the most economically advanced countries.

5% of the students at the university are international students. Iceland has many foreign relations and partnerships, which is always appreciated because Iceland is such an attractive country.

However, studying in Iceland also brings some difficulties, as most courses are only offered in Icelandic and only a few in English. Although the university offers an Erasmus language course, learning Icelandic in such a short time is a challenge.





Visit Iceland



INSPIRED BY ICELAND



<https://de.visiticeland.com/>



VISIT ICELAND



<https://www.goiceland.com/blog/the-icelandic-pledge/>

Visit Iceland is a part of the company of Business Iceland whose goal is to support the international reach of the following six departments: Energy & Green Solutions, Innovation and Technology, Arts and Creative Industries, Tourism, Fisheries, and Specialized Food & Natural Products.

Visit Iceland is a company that promotes the Tourism in Iceland while working together with regional tourism industries/ visitor centres, etc. while always ensuring to keep sustainability as their main goal in mind.

The company tries to promote every part of their country to prevent the overuse of the nature at famous tourism spots.



To reach that goal they started the strategy of visitor planning which includes special websites that inform tourists about current visitor numbers at certain destinations, the promotion of different destinations during all seasons of the year as well as the promotion of all parts of the country. Moreover, the website of Visit Iceland provides visitors with all kinds of useful information to travel to and within Iceland. Most of their advertisements happens on platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram.



<https://www.visiticeland.com/how-to-get-there/>



+354 511 4000

I PLEDGE TO BE A RESPONSIBLE
TOURIST

WHEN I EXPLORE NEW PLACES,
I WILL LEAVE THEM AS I FOUND THEM.

I WILL TAKE PHOTOS TO DIE FOR,
WITHOUT DYING FOR THEM.

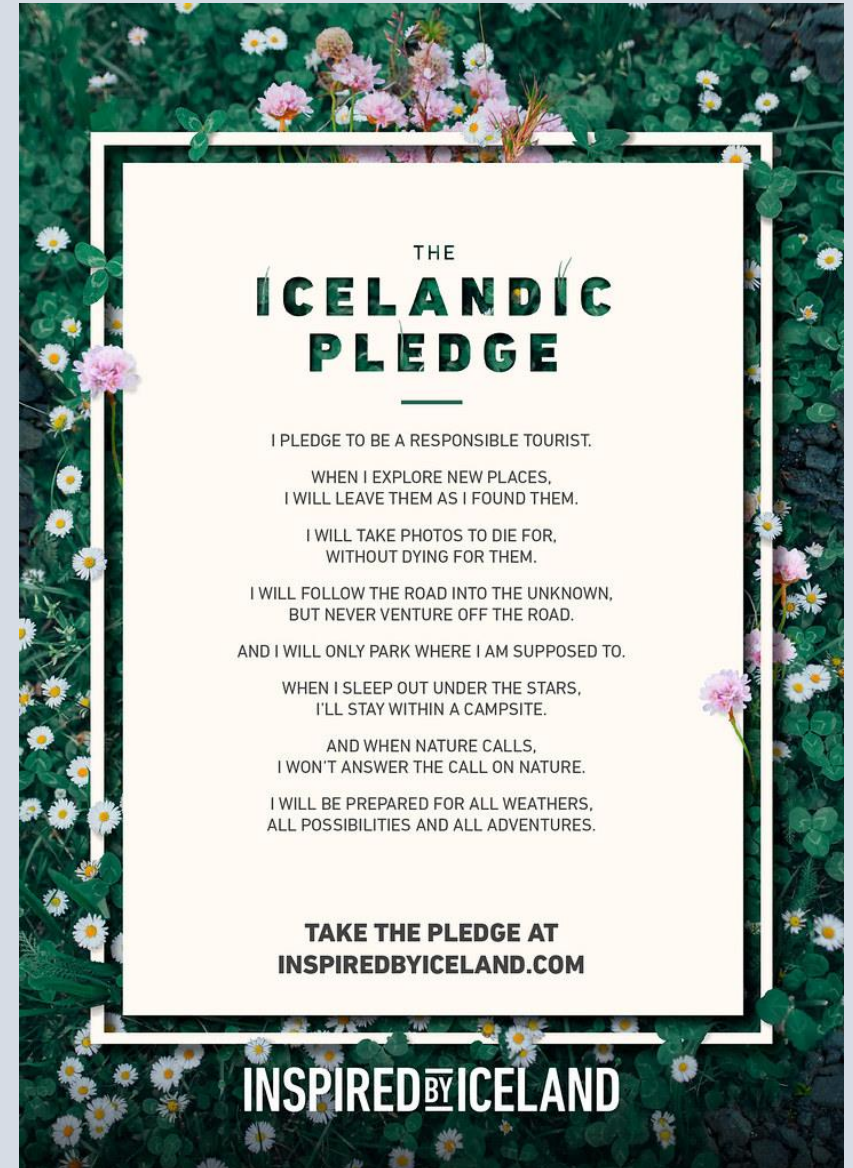
I WILL FOLLOW THE ROAD INTO THE UNKNOWN,
BUT NEVER VENTURE OFF THE ROAD.

AND I WILL ONLY PARK WHERE I AM SUPPOSED TO.

WHEN I SLEEP OUT UNDER THE STARS,
I'LL STAY WITHIN A CAMPSITE.

AND WHEN NATURE CALLS,
I WON'T ANSWER THE CALL ON NATURE

AND WHEN NATURE CALLS,
I WON'T ANSWER THE CALL ON NATURE



THE
**ICELANDIC
PLEDGE**

I PLEDGE TO BE A RESPONSIBLE TOURIST.
WHEN I EXPLORE NEW PLACES,
I WILL LEAVE THEM AS I FOUND THEM.
I WILL TAKE PHOTOS TO DIE FOR,
WITHOUT DYING FOR THEM.
I WILL FOLLOW THE ROAD INTO THE UNKNOWN,
BUT NEVER VENTURE OFF THE ROAD.
AND I WILL ONLY PARK WHERE I AM SUPPOSED TO.
WHEN I SLEEP OUT UNDER THE STARS,
I'LL STAY WITHIN A CAMPSITE.
AND WHEN NATURE CALLS,
I WON'T ANSWER THE CALL ON NATURE.
I WILL BE PREPARED FOR ALL WEATHERS,
ALL POSSIBILITIES AND ALL ADVENTURES.

**TAKE THE PLEDGE AT
INSPIREDBYICELAND.COM**

INSPIREDBYICELAND



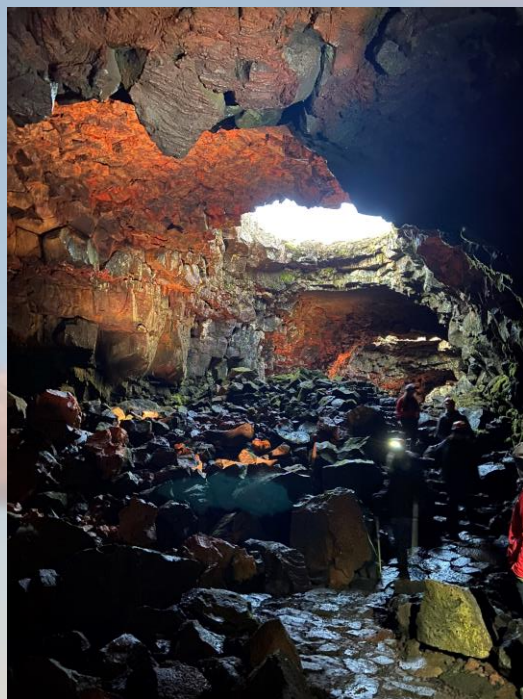
<https://www.goiceland.com/blog/the-icelandic-pledge/>



arctic adventures



<https://adventures.is/de/>





arctic adventures



<https://adventures.is/de/>

“Nature is the adventure” - this quote represents the philosophy of the largest activity tour operator in Iceland, Arctic Adventures. Arctic Adventures was founded in 1983 and its goal is to show people the best places of the Nature of Iceland during the whole year. The company employs more than 150 people, most of them are working as a tour-guide. They have their own busses, special equipment for their tour participants and their own yards and service centres for their vehicles. Arctic Adventures offers different kind of tours for nearly every kind of group or interest, which all can be booked via their website.



<https://adventures.is/>



+3542056207000



The website provides their customers with all day tours, multi-day tours, private tours, self-drive tours, guided tours, stopover packages, and attractions the company is offering. Customers are even able to book the tours spontaneous as long they have enough capacity and do not have to book months in advance. Some examples of what types of tours the company is offering: ice carving tours, glacier hiking, lava caving, snorkelling, diving, hiking, sightseeing, super jeep tours, etc.

Arctic Adventures offers a diverse, wide selection of tours while always having the safety and well-being of their customers as their priority.



GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND



Government of Iceland
Ministry for Foreign Affairs



<https://www.government.is/ministries/ministry-for-foreign-affairs/minister-for-foreign-affairs/>



<https://www.government.is/ministries/ministry-for-foreign-affairs/about-the-ministry/>



GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND

 <https://www.government.is/ministries/ministry-for-foreign-affairs/minister-for-foreign-affairs/>

Our first full day in Iceland was Monday and this day was packed with many interesting meetings. One of them was with the Minister of Innovation, Tourism, and Industry, Þórdís Kolbrún R. Gylfadóttir. She also was just recently announced to be the new foreign minister of Iceland. Þórdís was the youngest women ever appointed for a minister at that time. It was an honour to be able to meet her. She spoke with us about problems in the tourism industry and possible solutions. We talked about the tourism in Iceland and how covid affected it. She also told us, that Iceland wants to focus more on quality than on quantity because in 2019 it became obvious that Iceland really struggled with the fast-growing tourism sector. Now she wants Iceland to have higher quality tourism with tourists who come all year around and travel the whole island.

She said that tourism has a lot of benefits for the island but only if it is done sustainably through marketing, infrastructure, management of sights and new innovative energy. With this strategy they can keep control over the quantity because Iceland wants to compete with quality, they see the climate change as a big challenge but also as a big chance and opportunity.



Government of Iceland
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The minister also spoke about Lobbyism and how she makes sure that she always talks to many instances and listens to different opinions. That does not mean she does what other people think its best, but she takes those opinions in consideration when she has to make a decision. It was very interesting to see how she always tried to see as many facets as possible when we asked questions. But one of the highlights of this meeting was how she talked about being the youngest women in the ministry. Þórdís said that even though Iceland is at the top of equality right now, that does not mean that they can not do better. She said that she is proud of her country and that she is not the youngest women in the ministry anymore, but she continues to fight for equality. She said Iceland can still do better and that

„It’s not enough to have a seat on the table, you also have to have the respect.“





Secret Lagoon

Gamla Laugin



<https://secretlagoon.is/>



SECRET LAGOON

The Secret Lagoon – Gamla Laugin is the oldest swimming pool in Iceland.

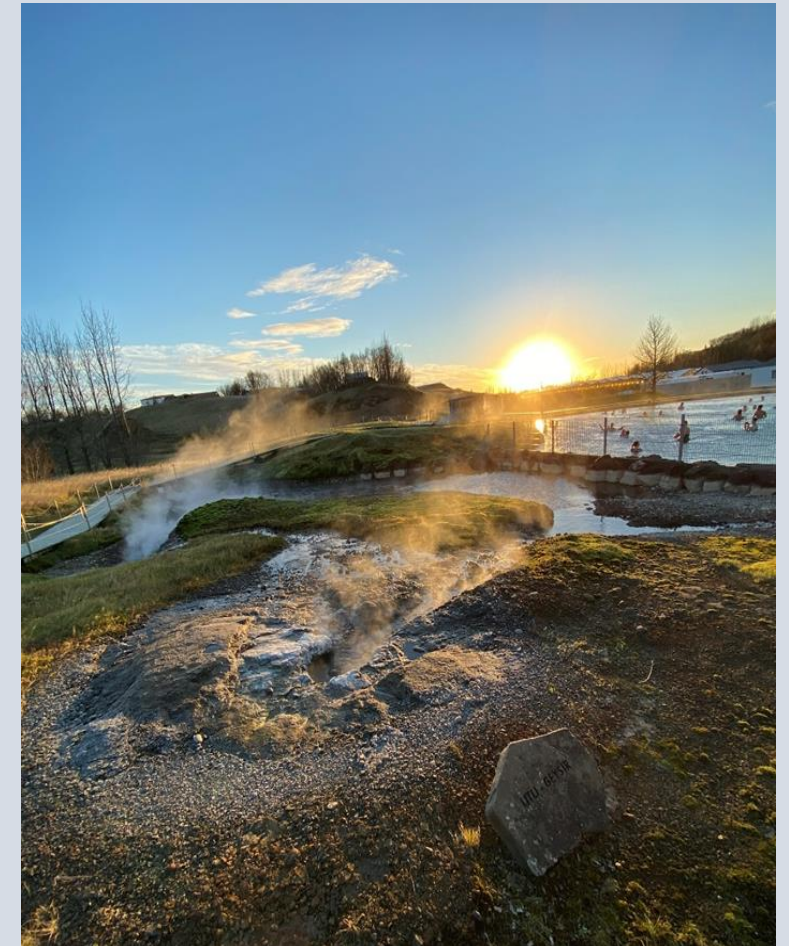
It was made in 1891. The hot water which flows continuously is coming from the hot spring.

All of us had the opportunity to enjoy a bath at the secret Lagoon. It was great experiencing relaxing in the Secret Lagoon, in which the water has a temperature of 38 to 40 Celsius.

We had the opportunity to talk to the staff of the secret Lagoon which told us a lot about the Icelandic tradition to bath in Lagoons.

They want that the Secret Lagoon is a natural, simple and unique place where everyone can get a true Icelandic experience.

“The secret Lagoon is dedicated to those who seek peace and relaxation of mind and body.”



+354 555 3351



Info@secretlagoon.is



 **TREX**
Travel Experiences

TREX COMPANY

After an amazing fourth day we arrived at the cozy huts “Hörgsland” in the evening .

In these idyllic cabins, located in the middle of nature between the mountains and a large paddock for Icelandic horses, we would sleep the next two nights. That evening we ate a traditional soup with lamb.

Afterwards we sat comfortably together and listened to our bus driver Birkir who told us about his job as a bus driver in the Trex Company.

Birkir is a bus driver for 25 years now and he is working since 15 years for the Trex Company.

During these years he has experienced a lot and his two probably most important advices were, stay buckled up and listen to your bus driver.



The Trex Company is an Icelandic bus company with over 40 years of experience. They offer a modern and varied range of buses, coaches and sprinters of all sizes.

It is possible to book day trips and/or multi-day excursions for groups of all sizes.

The Company offers guided round tours and all- inclusive guided trekking tours.

Furthermore, it is possible to book winter tours and they offer scheduled highland buses to Þórsmörk and Landmannalaugar during summertime.



+354 587 6000



Info@trex.is



FJALLSÁRLÓN



<https://fjallsarlon.is/>

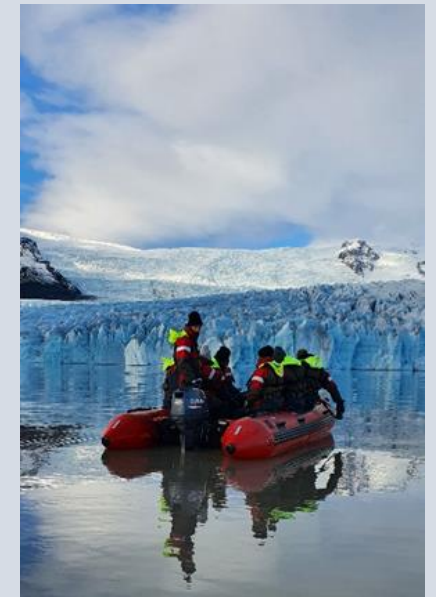


GLACIER LAGOON

Another highlight of our Iceland excursion was the Fjallsárlón Iceberg boat tour in the Glacier Lagoon. We had the opportunity to experience a boat tour in the glacier lagoon in three different groups. During the trip in the Glacier lagoon, we were told a lot about the glacier ice and the development. Glacier ice is compressed snow, which is harder and heavier than normal ice, the air is pushed out under about 10 tons of pressure. Its blue color is very special. During the 45-minute boat tour we had the opportunity to enjoy a "whiskey on the rocks".

Enjoying fresh glacier ice with a sip of whiskey in the middle of the lagoon.

A real highlight!



After the boat tour we had the possibility to talk to a part of the team. The company was founded in 2013 with only three people. At that time the tickets were sold on the road and in front of the site of the glacier there was no proper infrastructure, no electricity and no running water. The Investors started to build the buildings themselves like the restaurant and the warehouses for the material.

The land where the glacier is located belongs to the National Park, so it was difficult and took a long time to get a contract with the permissions to operate here.

Despite the difficulty of obtaining building licenses, it has become possible that since 2017 restaurants, toilets and changing rooms are offered.

This is one of the best facilities in the area and makes it so clearly comfortable for groups, which we can definitely confirm.

Despite the difficulty of obtaining building licenses, it is possible to offer restaurants, toilets and changing rooms since 2017.

Weather is the biggest challenge for the team. The extreme weather changes can lead to tours not taking place. For example, with strong winds or in winter when the glacier is frozen. We were lucky because we had bright sunshine and blue sky.

The team made it clear that the most important thing for them personally is that the customers are happy.

“If they are happy, we are happy.”

We were all very happy and would definitely recommend the tour to others!



+354 666 8006



info@fjallsarlon.is



VATNAJÖKULSPJÓÐGARÐUR
NATIONAL PARK



<https://www.vatnajokulsthjodgardur.is/en>



At the Vatnajökulsþjóðgarður we talked to Thor, who works at the national park as a ranger. He told us about the huge area of the national park (map on the bottom right) and the educational hikes they offer throughout the park.

Furthermore, he also explained to us that due to the pandemic they were very understaffed so when the big masses of tourists came back, every employee had a lot to do and had to take care of many things.

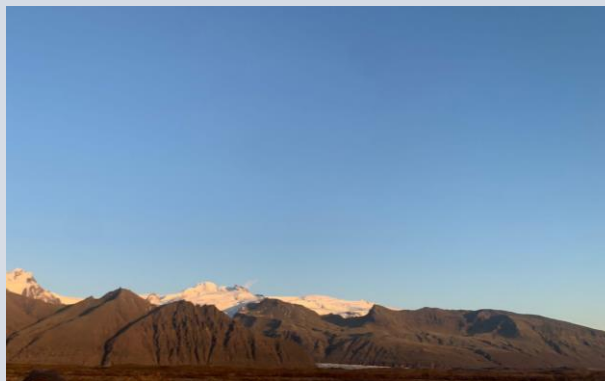
Another great problem is the infrastructure within the parks, especially financially it can be very hard for the parks to keep up with the demand so when tourism boomed in Iceland a lot of nature got destroyed because the infrastructure was not made for so many people.




+ (354) 5758400



vatnajokulsthjodgardur.is

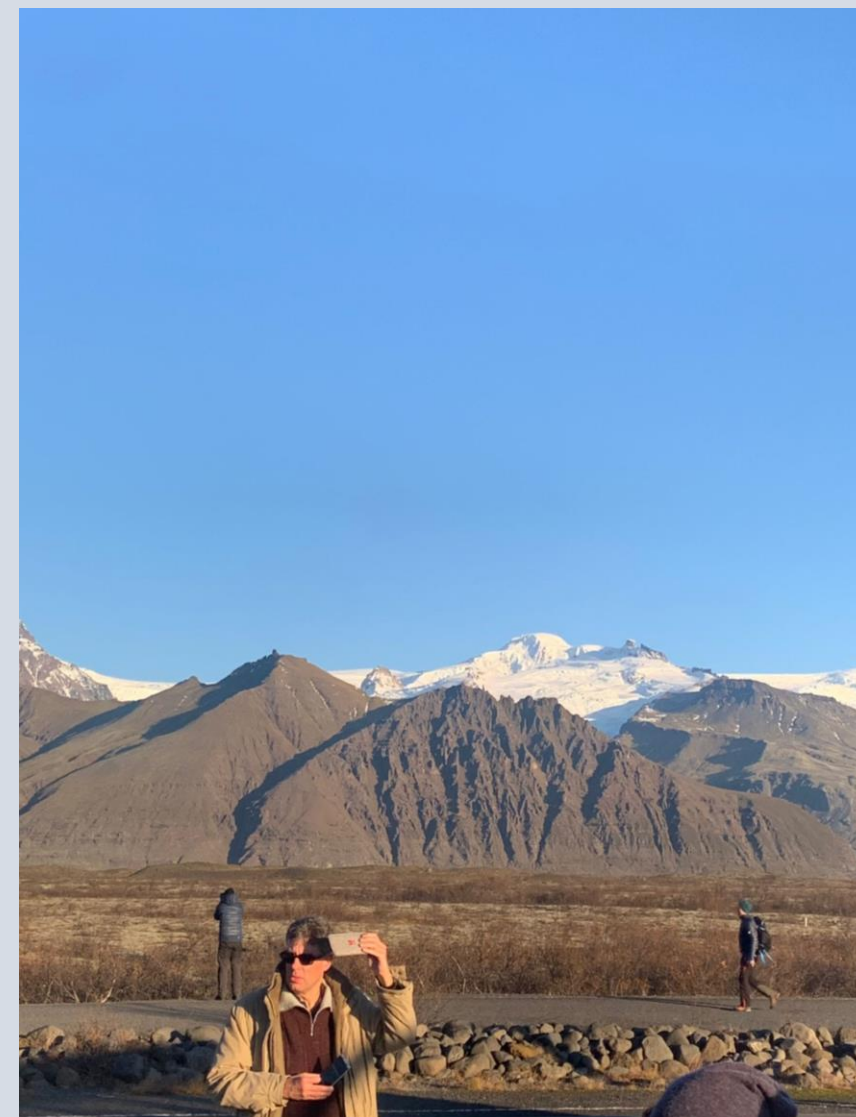


 <https://visitvatnajokull.is>



Did you know?

Vatnajökulsþjóðgarður translates to:
“Water glacier national park”





Herriðarhóll Farm

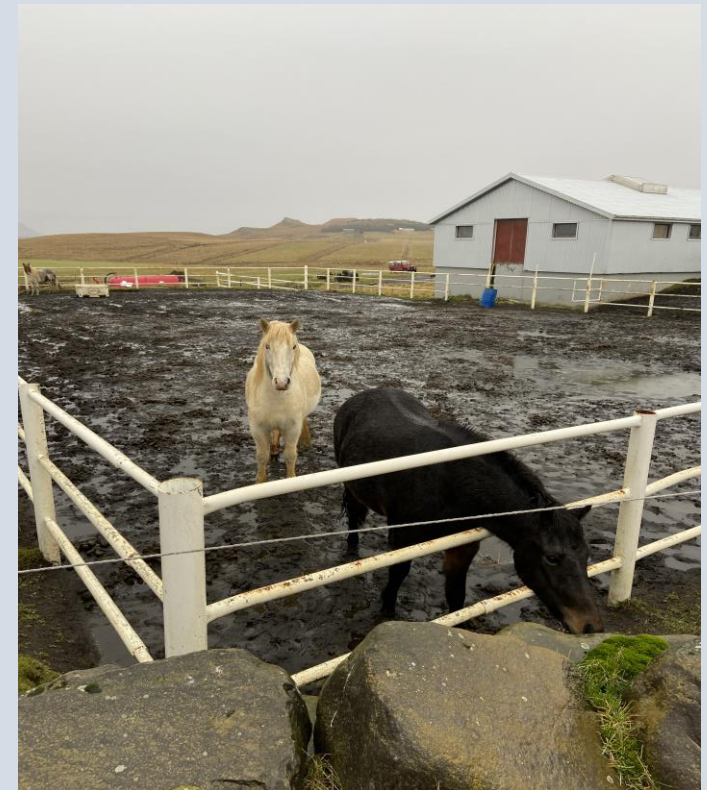
The farm is run by Renate and her husband Arnar. Renate is originally from Bremen in Germany and started riding at the age of 7, including Icelandic horses.

She immigrated 25 years ago to run the farm with her husband who is a native Icelander.

They have two daughters who grew up bilingual. Their farm includes 400 hectares of land, as well as the 120 Icelandic horses and about 280 ewes.

Tourism plays an important role for the farm. They are offering riding tours, running a guest house and tour groups are always welcomed to visit the farm. Renate told us how the farm is managed and how she reconciles her role as a farmer and as a host for Tourists.

The farm also offers internship opportunities.



+354-8991759



Herridarholl@herridarholl.is

OUR ROUTE

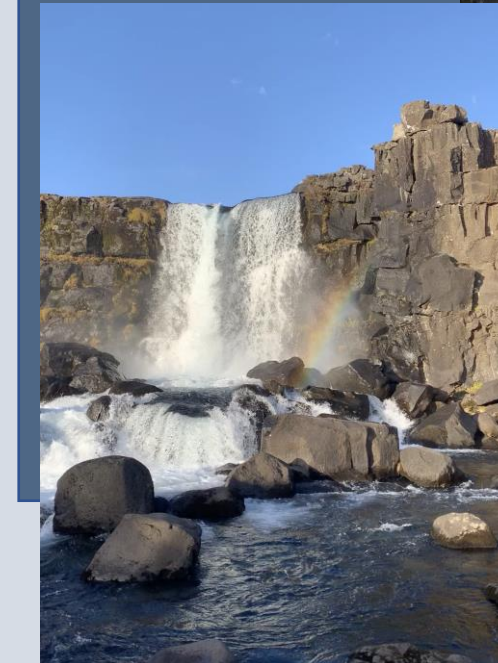
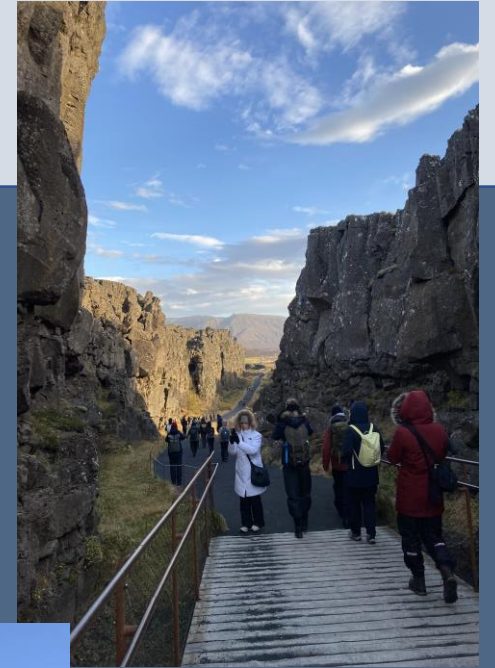


TUESDAY – Golden Circle

Stop 1: National Park Thingvellir

After spending Monday looking at different companies, we left Reykjavik on Tuesday. At 9 o'clock in the morning, we left by bus in the direction of the south coast. Our first stop was the Thingvellir National Park. This park plays an important historical role and is one of the most famous sights in Iceland. Thingvellir is located in the middle of a rift valley and is surrounded by several active volcanoes. In 2004, the park was also included by UNESCO in the list of World Heritage Sites.

In addition, a diving site has developed in the middle of the canyon. In the National Park you can find the Oxarafoss waterfall. In its fatigue, you can dive here directly between the Eurasian and the North American continental plate. A highlight for many tourists.



<https://www.thingvellir.is/en/>

Stop 2: Great Geysir & Strokkur



<https://www.iceland.de/virtuelle-islandreise/suedwestisland/das-geysirgebiet/>

After spending a lot of time in the National Park we finally went on to our next stop, the Great Geysir and Strokkur. The geyser is probably the most famous in the world. Geysers are a rare phenomenon and until the 19th century very little was known about them in the western world. Since 2003, however, there is hardly any activity of the great geysir. An eruption is seen as a big attraction.

Therefore, on the route of the Golden Circle, the geyser Strokkur is the main attraction. It is the most active geyser in Iceland. It erupts every 4 to 10 minutes and reaches a height of 15-20 meters. The sight of the erupting Strokkur is unique and very special. The experience of excited waiting and recognizing small signs that announce the imminent eruption Strokkur should not be underestimated.



Geysir Center

An aerial photograph of the Gullfoss waterfall in Iceland. The river Hvítá flows through a wide, flat-topped canyon. The waterfall is composed of two distinct stages. A viewing platform with a metal railing is built on the edge of the upper stage, where a group of people is gathered. A vibrant rainbow is visible in the mist rising from the base of the waterfall. The surrounding landscape is rugged and brownish, typical of the Icelandic highlands.

Stop 3: Gullfoss

The last stop of our Golden Circle tour was Gullfoss. Gullfoss is a waterfall of the river Hvítá in Haukadalur in the south of Iceland. Gullfoss waterfall is listed as one of the top 10 waterfalls in the world by World of Waterfalls. The powerful Hvítá is a glacial river that flows directly south from Langjökull (long glacier), giving Gullfoss its high flow rate. In summer, when there is a particularly large amount of meltwater from Langjökull, it rises to 140 cubic centimeters per second. The waterfall has a drop of 32 meters over two stages and flows through the rugged canyon, which is 70 meters high at times.



Secret Lagoon
Gamla Laugin



<https://secretlagoon.is/>

After spending the day on the Golden Circle, we were able to spend the evening relaxing at the Secret Lagoon.



Hotel Örök and Ölverk



After an exciting day, we finally reached our new accommodation. The Hotel Örök. Here we had only a short time to bring our luggage to the rooms and then we went directly to dinner on the other side of the street, to the restaurant Ölverk. Here there was a large selection of pizza, but also other dishes such as salads and of course we were allowed to try the beer of the house.

After dinner, everyone used the time differently, while some went in search of northern lights, others spent the time in the hotel Örök, where there was a lounge, others used the time to go to the pool.



Ölverk



(+354) 483 3030



olverk@olverk.is

Hotel Örök



(+354) 483 4700



booking@hotelork.is

WEDNESDAY

During the night at Hotel Órk some of us could witness an earthquake. The earthquake had a magnitude of 3.3 and some of us woke up because of it. In the morning we packed our bags and drove to the next adventurous day. Our first stop was Seljafoss, which is a waterfall where you can go behind the water curtain. We all got wet, but the view was worth it. Some of us simply stood and watched it and other hiked a little longer. The nature of Iceland repeatedly took our breath away.

After this, we drove to Rangárbing eystra, which is a huge waterfall. A big staircase took us up to the waterfall, where we could witness the immense power of the water.



A few pictures later we got to our next destination Dyrhólaey, which lies at the coast of Iceland. We drove up the cliffs and from there we not only had an incredible view over the ocean, but we could also see a beautiful little lighthouse and two giant archways, which looked almost god-made. We spend some time there, taking picture and enjoying the nature. Afterwards, we took a lunch break in a shopping center at Myrdalshreppur, directly at the coast. We walked on the black sand and watched the ocean before we drove to our last stop of the day.

Skaftárhreppur, also known as Justin Bieber Canyon, presented itself in the most beautiful light. We were hiking there for about one and a half hours while being in awe and constantly looking at the nature. After Justin Bieber shot his music video there, many people visited the place and destroyed it by being unmindful. It needed to be closed for some years for the nature to recover. It was the perfect time of the day to visit Skaftárhreppur, because the sunlight was golden at the end of the day and the sky was blue, which created a beautiful scenery.

Before driving to our accommodation some of us tried Hákarl, which is fermented shark and afterwards we drank an islandic aquavit. This was interesting way of getting to know more islandic traditions, even if not all of us enjoyed Hákarl.

THURSDAY

At the fourth day of our Iceland excursion, we visited Fjallsárlón. Fjallsárlón is a glacier lagoon at the end of the Icelandic glacier Vatnajökull in the southern region of the island. Everyone was dressed up in special, extra safety clothes before we started our tour. Together with three guides from “Ice Lagoon Zodiac Boat Tours” we enjoyed the incredible view of the glacier as well as stories about the glacier Vatnajökull and the glacier lagoon from our boats, with which drove through the lagoon. Driving through the lagoon and being so close to the glacier itself, was a memorable experience for all of us. Another highlight was the cup of whisky with original glacier ice inside that was offered to us.



After we completed the tour, the managers of the company of Zodiac Boat Tours were so kind to talk with us about their company, the tour, and the tourism at that attraction in general.

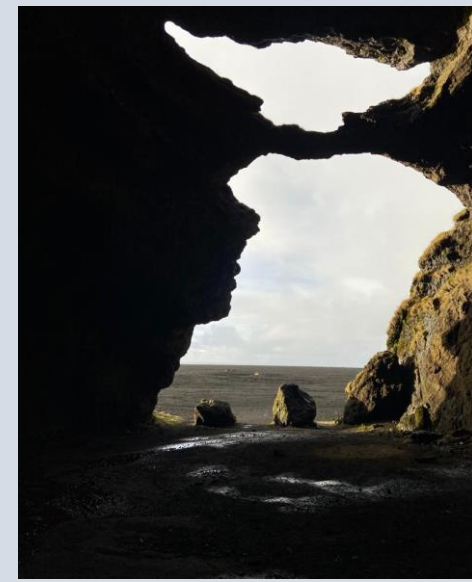
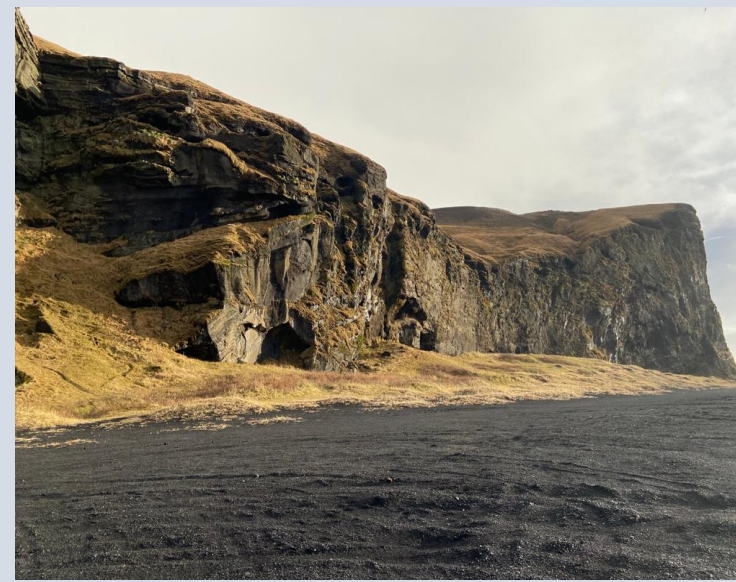
Then we headed off to another glacier lagoon, which is called Jökulsárlón and to the so-called diamond beach.

At those attractions we were able to see parts of the glacier, which have been disbanded from the original glacier at the beach as well as in the ocean. When we returned at the Hörgsland Cottages, we enjoyed the evening together while having a nice dinner and chatting about our experiences of the day.



FRIDAY

Friday was the 6th day of our excursion and after spending our second night in the cozy Huts it was time to leave the rural idyll and head back towards Reykjavik. On our way back we were able to experience further highlights of the south coast. The Lava Fields were our first stop. Their moss-grown green color and the uneven surface reminded of the set of a fantasy movie. You would have loved to walk around on it, but since nature grows back slowly on Iceland, it is important to stay on the given paths in order to protect nature and above all the moss that grows all over Iceland.



Right after the lava fields we made a spontaneous stop at the coast where a breathtaking rocky landscape with a cave awaited us. After we could explore this, our bus driver Birkir drove us to the beach. Almost no other tourists were at this place, and we could enjoy the view of the black beach and the sea undisturbed. The highlight of this short stopover was the beautiful rainbow that was shone in all colors.

After this impressive start in the day, we headed towards Reynisfjara. The beautiful black sand beach has been voted to one of the most beautiful beaches in the world. There is a legend that says the beach is protected by the trolls of Reynisdrangar. Unfortunately, we couldn't see any. But we were very lucky with the weather and able to enjoy the sun a little while we were walking on the intense black sand. The basalt columns were one of the most impressive sights on this beach.



As soon as we got back on the Bus, we continued our way to the Herridarhóll farm. The pretty farm which is right next to a lake is owned by Renate. She showed us the stables and we got a riding demonstration of her daughter on a real Icelandic horse. The special thing about Icelandic horses is that they have a fourth gait called the "Tölt". After Renate provided us with delicious snacks and drinks, our journey continued to Reykjavik where we stayed the night. We ended the evening comfortably at the Dillon Bar in Reykjavik. That night we saw the polar lights for the first time during our excursion. It was truly a once in a lifetime experience.



Thilo Kirsch (our tour guide)



Thilo talked to us about his experiences of being a tour guide but also about being a young founder of a tourism company (OYO Travel). He taught us that it can be a big internal conflict to make the tours you are doing as a guide as authentic and fun as possible while also not stressing through sites. When working with others Thilo said this topic often becomes a conflict because others often want to make as much money as possible. He also told us about an audio guide app he is currently working on as well as always talking us through our scenic bus drives and walks educating us about the land and the people.



oyo@oyo-travel.com



Fun Fact

Thilo actually studied at the Hochschule Stralsund for his Master in Tourism Development Strategies

SATURDAY

On Saturday we had no appointments and so it was possible for us to arrange the day ourselves!



Lava Höhle
Sveitarfélagið Ölfus



Reykjavik



FlyOver Iceland

REYKJAVIK



Fagradalsfjall

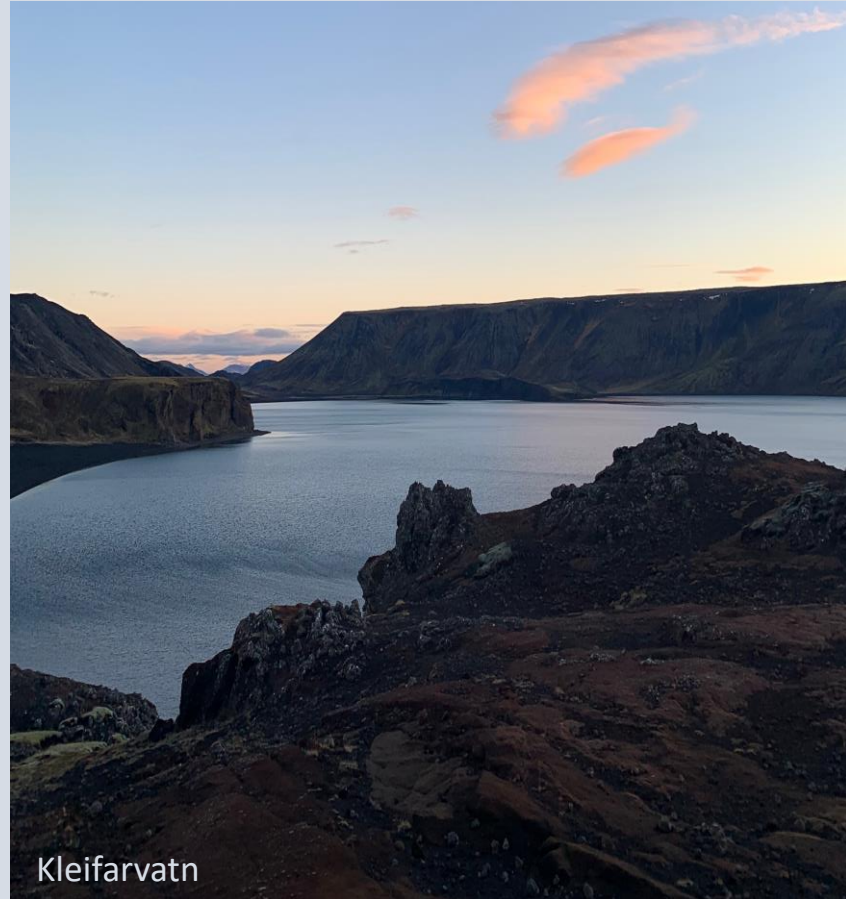


Seltún



Lava Rock Pool

Kleifarvatn



Kleifarvatn

Bridge between continents



REYKJANIS PENINSULA ROADTRIP

We rented a car and took a trip around the Reykjanes Peninsula, the small part in the south-west were Reykjavik and Keflavik are also located. We started early in the morning and our first stop was a beautiful lake with black sand where we watched the sun rise.

After that we walked around some hot springs illuminated by the orange morning sun. We continued our journey through the lava fields next to the ocean until we headed to the Fagradalsfjall, the volcano that erupted in March of 2021 and is still steaming. We hiked all the way to the top, enjoying the views of the mountains, glaciers and ocean along the way. At the top we also waved in the camera that broadcasts the volcano live 24/7.

On our way back down, we stopped to walk around on the now dried lava and then we continued our journey back to Reykjavik and stopped to look at a lava rock pool at the coastline and the bridge between continents, where we walked from the North American to the Eurasian plate.



DEPARTURE

GOING HOME

Our last day started very early at around 4 am. The hotel luckily already had the breakfast set up for us.

After everyone had breakfast, we checked out and got onto the bus to Keflavik airport again, with most of the students falling asleep again on the bus ride.

The airport was a little crowded again but the check in was very fast and it wasn't long until we could board our flight back home to Germany. Sleeping through most of the flight we landed safely back in Berlin and started our way back home to Stralsund.

That's when Iceland became a beautiful memory.



What was your favourite Iceland Attraction?



A a	Á á	B b	D d	Ð ð	E e	É é	F f
a	á	bé	dé	eð	e	jé	eff
G g	H h	I i	Í í	J j	K k	L l	M m
ge	h	i	í	j	k	l	emm
N n	O o	Ó ó	P p	R r	S s	T t	U u
enn	o	ó	pé	err	ess	té	u
Ú ú	V v	X x	Y y	Ý ý	Þ þ	Æ æ	Ö ö
ú	vaff	ex	ufsilon y	ufsilon ý	þorn	æ	ö

Welcome, Farewell and Courteousness:

Good morning – Góðan daginn

Good evening – Gott kvöld

Good night – Góða nott

Ciao – Bless

Yes – Já

No – Nei

Your welcome – Gjörðu svo vel

Thanks – Takk, takk fyrir

How are you? – Hvað segir þú gott

Thanks, good – Allt fínt, þakka þér fyrir

My name is... - Ég heiti...

I'm not speaking Icelandic. – Ég tala ekki íslensku

You're cute! – Þú ert algjört rassgat!

Food & Drinks:

Water – Vatn

Wine – Vín

Beer – Björ/öl

Coffee – Kaffi

Tea – Te

Milk – Mjólk

Bread – Brauð

Butter – Smjör

Cheese – Ostur

Fish – Fisk

Meat – Kjöt

Vegetable – Grænmeti

Fruit – Ávextir/Ávöxtur

Icelandic quark speciality - Skýr

And more...

Super! – Frábært, flott, akkurat!

Everything will be fine! – Þetta reddast!

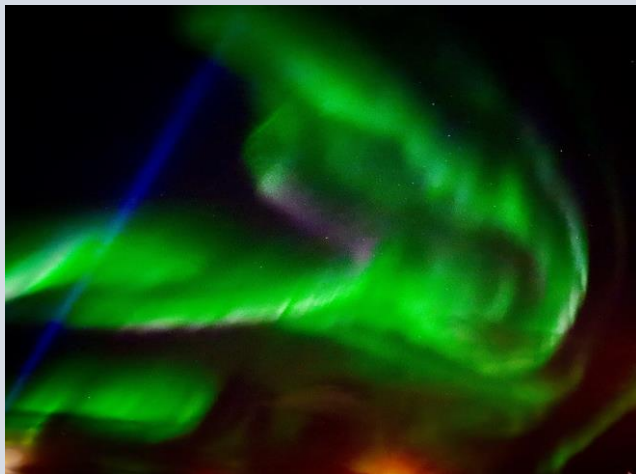
Let's go, Iceland! – Áfram Ísland!

Four large beers, please! – Fjóra stóra bjóra, takk!

The a - ö of Island

The Hardest Karaoke Song in the World - YouTube





THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

The sun regularly emits strong winds. With enormous speed these race in the direction of the earth and are deflected by the magnetic field to the two poles. There they collide with air particles and finally cause them to glow. This usually happens above the clouds at an altitude of up to 400 kilometers. Due to the nature of the Earth's magnetic field, the Northern Lights occur only at the poles.

The first requirement to experience this natural spectacle is darkness. Ideally, the lights are visible from about mid-September until about the end of March. When the aurora starts and when it stops is never predictable.

The climax of the spectacle is reached when the veil moves from one form to the next and suddenly dissolves again. Formations such as clouds, ribbons or arches are possible.

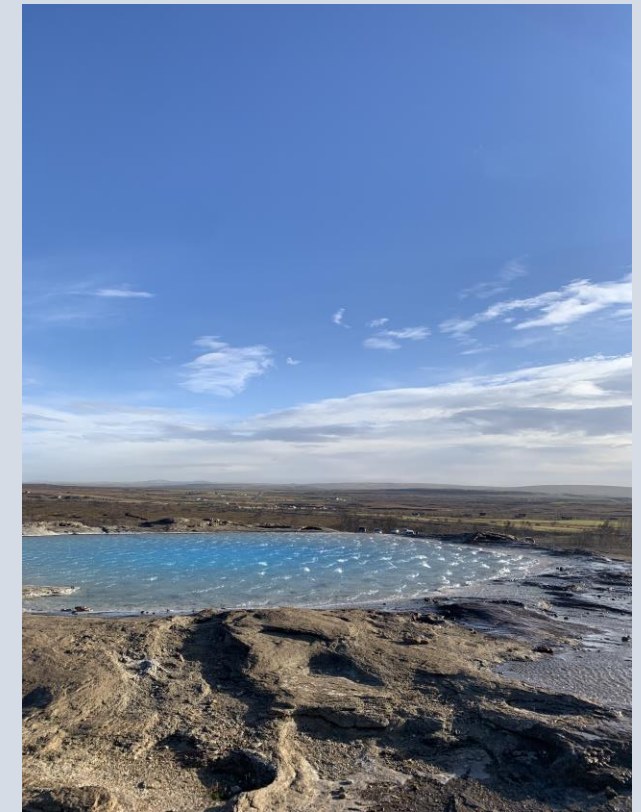
Seeing the Northern Lights during our Iceland excursion was an incredible experience that will never be forgotten.



**"Definitely the highlight of my LTM studies!
Never before have I had the feeling to really
have understood how tourism works at a
destination as it was the case in Iceland!"**



**"I loved everything about it. Seriously!
I didn't had one bad moment on the whole
excursion. Also I never learned so much
about a country in such a short time. I
definitely recommend Iceland for everyone
and will come back several times."**

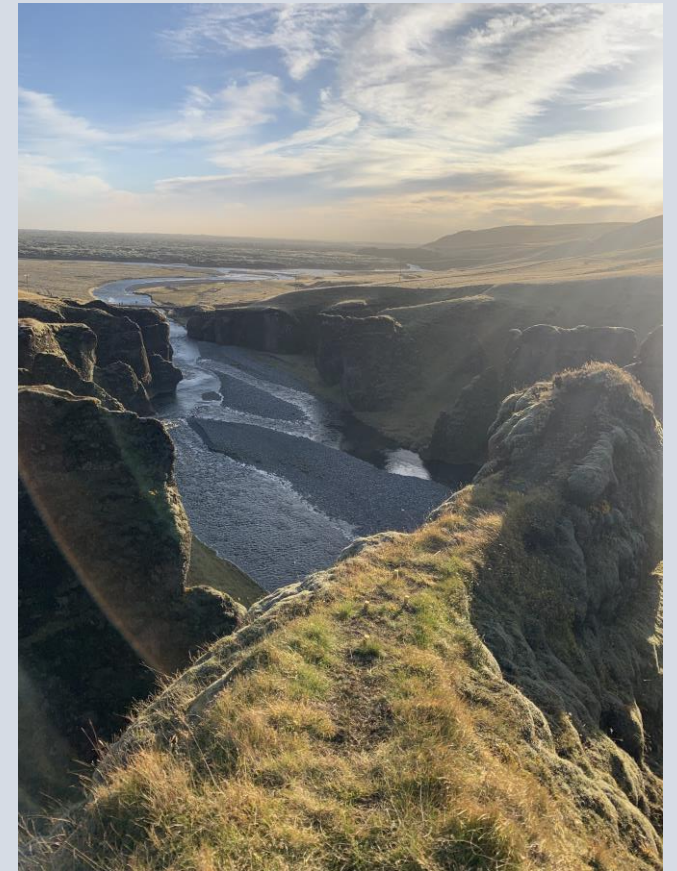


**"Es war ein fantastisches und einmaliges
Erlebnis und nach den erschwerten online
Semestern, konnte sich unser Studiengang nun
endlich kennen lernen. Die gesammelten
Eindrücke werden uns vermutlich weiterhin
prägen!"**



**"Ich fand die Exkursion sehr gelungen.
Besonders der Justin Bieber und
Massentourismus Vergleich hat es mir
angetan. Das Land ist wunderbar und ich
werde zurückkommen!"**

**"There were so many impressions starting from the
appointments where we got an honest insight to the
tourism of Iceland and what's behind it all the different
places and sites we visited. Definitely an experience I
will never forget!"**

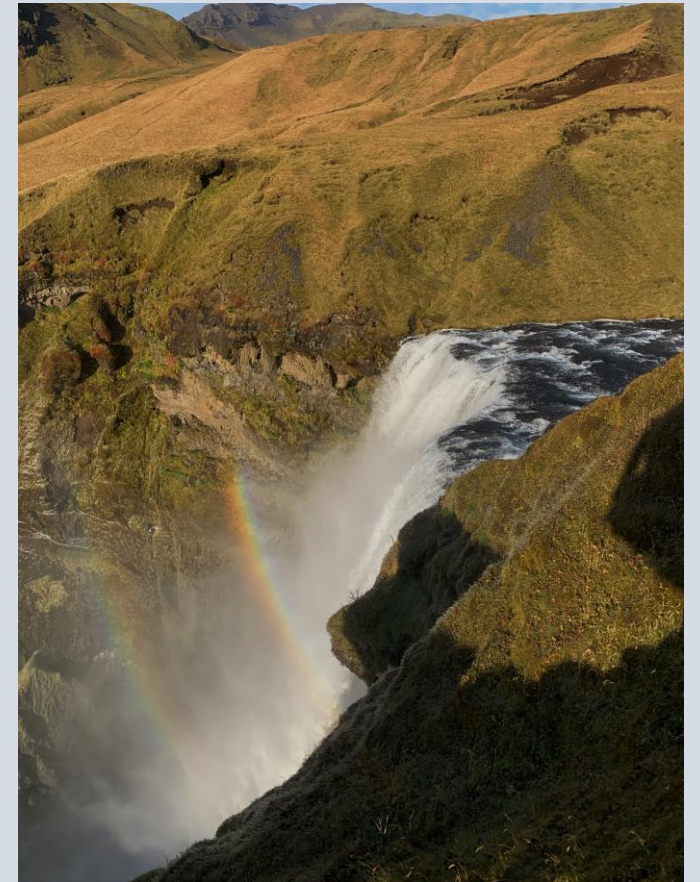


**"Eine unglaubliche Woche, die
wir ohne Exkursion so bestimmt
nie erlebt hätten!"**



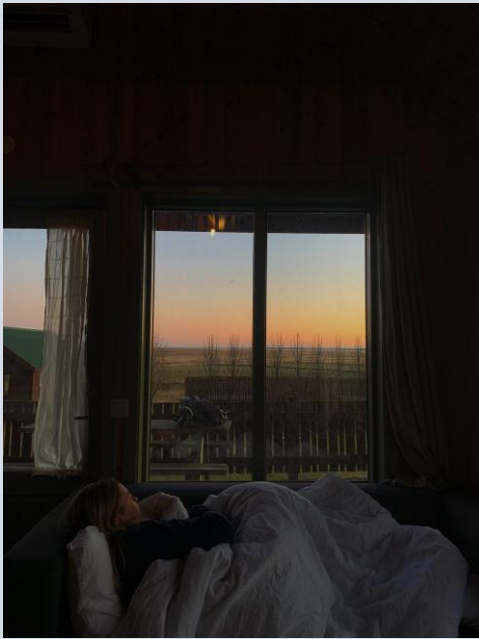
"Great Opportunity to get to know insights into a beautiful wild and natural country and its inhabitants, the mentality and culture of the people as well as the opportunities and challenges they have to face especially regarding tourism industry."

"It was an amazing experience! I loved how we had an action packed tour with many sites to look at every day. Thilo did a great job at teaching us about the Icelandic nature in culture. This was a very memorable and insightful trip!"



"Eine Traumhafte Woche! Wir hatten die Möglichkeit viel über Island zu lernen, konnten mit vielen verschiedenen Menschen sprechen und haben einiges von der Exkursion mit nehmen können!"







Publisher

Hochschule Stralsund

Zur Schwedenschanze 15

18439 Stralsund

Concept & Editorial

Lisa Hillmer

Elisa Kornfeld

Ida Mühle

Johanna Nitz

Victoria Sallmann

Alisa Schilling

Management

Anne Christiansen

Pictures

Visit Iceland

Arctic Adventures

Trex

Vatnajökulsþjóðgarður

National Park

Herríðarhóll Farm

Own Images



Iceland Excursion 2021