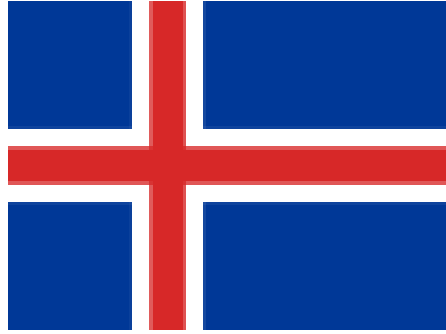


## ICELAND 11. JULY – 18. JULY

This month we went to [Iceland](#). According to [landnámabók](#) the Norwegians were the first who settled on the island in the year 874 AD, when [Ingólfr Arnarson](#) settled there. From 1262 to 1918 the island was part of the Norwegian and at last the Danish monarchy. Iceland gained independence from Denmark in World War II, and the Republic of Iceland was established on 17<sup>th</sup> of June 1944. There live only about 330,000 people in Iceland and 200,000 of these people live in Reykjavik m / suburbs.



Iceland's location in Europe.



Iceland's flag.



Iceland's coat of arms

We traveled with



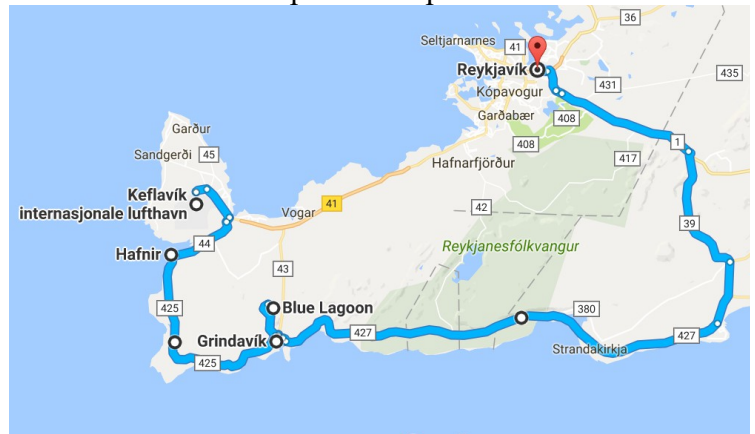
[Icelandair](#) is Iceland's national airline with flights to many cities in Europe and the United States.



We had booked this car, a [Hyundai I30](#), which we picked up at the airport.



We landed at [Keflavik International Airport](#). It was built during the war by the US Air Force. After the war it was adopted also for civil aviation.



When we had got the car, we drove not the shortest way to Reykjavik, where we had booked a hotel for the first night. We drove along the south coast of [Reykjanes](#).



It is sparsely populated here, on the tip of the peninsula, Reykjanes, where Keflavik located. These houses have seen better days.



Here we are at [Hafnir](#). This is the church.



Some of the buildings in Hafnir.



Further along the coast is flat and barren.



We saw a lot of lava rock.



There are many [thermal power stations](#) on Iceland.



There is a great variety of flowering plants in the volcanic soil.



We guessed that these were studying the flowers in the area.



Here we are on a detour towards the Blue Lagoon.



Almost there.



In the parking lot by the road that goes down towards the lagoon.



It's cleared a ravine through all lava rock, so it should be easy to walk.



This is the [Blue Lagoon](#). It's hot wastewater from the largest geothermal power plant in the area, [Svartsengi Power Station](#). The temperature is 37°C all year.



Blue-green algae and white silica deposits gives the water a blue color.



This is the proof that I have been here.



Here we can see the silica precipitation on lava rocks.



There is created a spa in the lagoon. There are many who bathe here and there is also a department that treats people with psoriasis. This is the spa entrance.



On the way back to the shore we took a couple of pictures of mosses and lichens that there grew very much of in this area.



Back to the coast and [Grindavik](#). Outside Reykjavik there are generally low houses, and this was almost an exception.



We drove down to the harbor. Here we look inward to the settlement.



There went horses grazing down by the harbor.

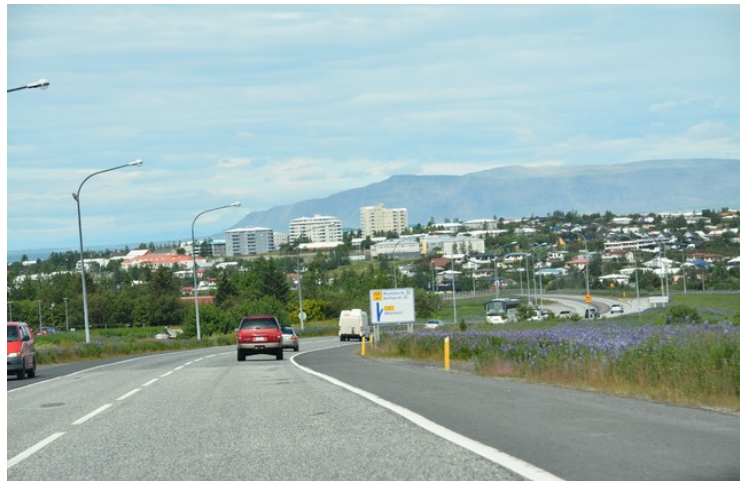


Photos of the nature further along.





Approaching Reykjavik.



More houses.



In Reykjavik we had reserved room at [Adam Hotel](#). It is central Reykjavik.



After checking in, we ate at this cafe on the corner.



It is called [Cafe Loki](#).



First we had Icelandic beer, Skjálfti and Thule.



Then we had [stockfish](#) and [fermented shark](#) with dark bread.



[Brennivin](#) was part of the meal. In the evening we went to the same place and had meat soup with lamb.



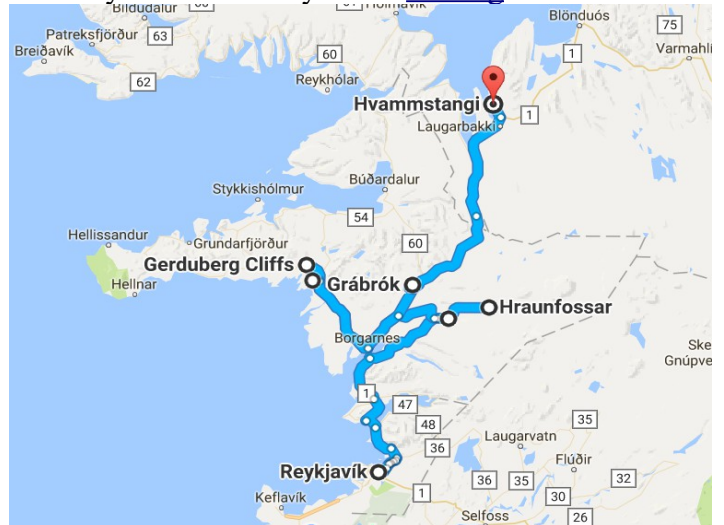
We stayed right next to [Hallgrímskirkja](#), which is the largest church in Iceland. It was completed in 1986 after 38 years of construction.



At the front of the church stands a statue of [Leif Erikson](#). It is a gift from the United States to celebrate the 1000 year anniversary of the [Althing](#) in 1930.



There was a place to smoke in the backyard of the hotel.



The next day, day 2 on July 12, we went this route.



Pictures from the start north of Reykjavik.



This is just before the entrance to [Hvalfjörður Tunnel](#). It is the only undersea tunnel in Iceland. Here it must be paid toll.





Mountain near [Hvalfjörður](#).





Here we are approaching the bridge across [Borgarfjörður](#).



We did not go over the bridge, but continued into the fjord on the south side.



[Snorrastofa](#) at [Røykholt](#). It is a cultural center with exhibitions etc.



[Reykholt kirke](#) from 1996.



Inside Snorrastofa.



[Snorri Sturluson](#). The sculpture is made by the sculptor [Páll Guðmundsson](#) and given to Snorrastofa in 1996.



Old tombstone boards.



Then we continued to [Hraunfossar](#).



These waterfalls are gorgeous.



There is made a viewing platform where it is best to view the waterfalls. It blew fresh on the platform that day.



A little further up is a waterfall called [Barnafossar](#).



Here we see a natural stone bridge over the falls.



After next drive stage we have reached [Borgarnes](#).



Out on [Brakarey](#) looking in to the town.



A monument in memory of [Þorgerður Brák](#) in [Egil's saga](#).



Here I stand and shoot.



On the way back through Borgarnes.



We stopped here and bought a snack.



The road further north.



Horses along the road.





I take pictures while Anne Berit takes pictures of me.



This is [Snæfellsjökull](#).



[Eldborg crater](#)



East of Eldborg there some particular rock formations.





Some nature pictures from the stretch between Eldborg and Gerduberg.



Here I am walking owards [Gerduberg](#).



Some pictures from Gerduberg.





This is the road that leads from the main road up to Gerduberg.

View from Gerduberg.



There are flowers here too.

The car we drove.



Here we are back to Borgarnes.

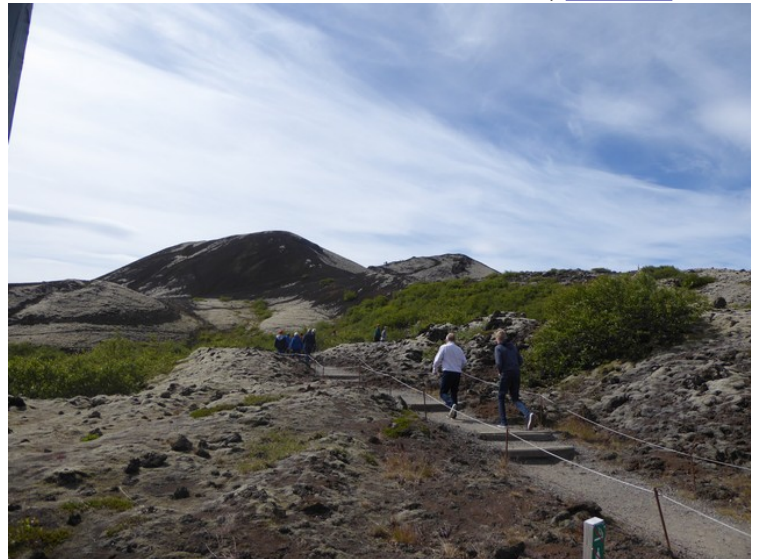




Then it's north.



Here we have come to another crater, [Grábrók](#).



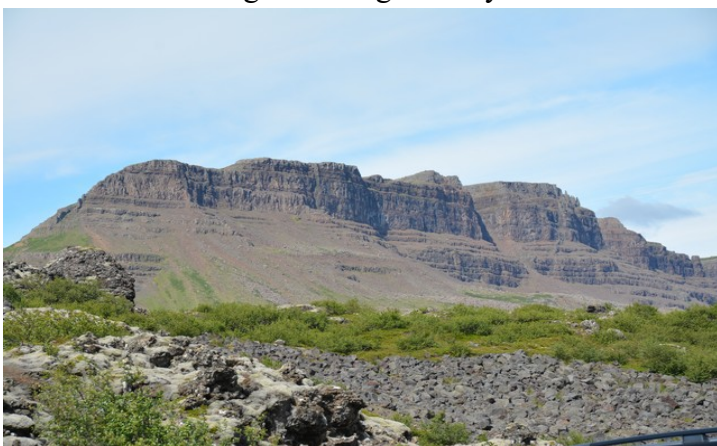
This is the path up to the edge of the crater.



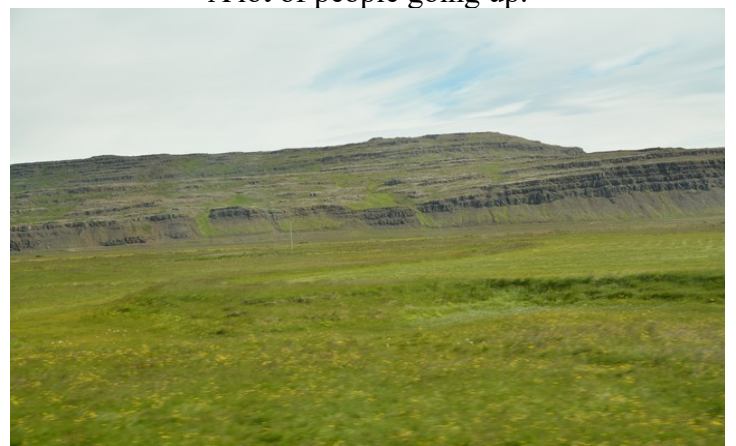
Sign showing the way.



A lot of people going up.



Then we drive on.





Then we come to the road that takes off against [Hvammstangi](#).



We had booked at [Hotel Hvammstangi](#). Simple and easy hotel.



After we had checked into the hotel, we had to have some food, so we drove down to a restaurant located down at the harbor. It's called [Sjavarborg](#). We had fried salmon with pesto, carrots, red onions and baked potatoes. Very good food.



Looking down to the harbor.



Colorful houses.



There is no boats in the harbor, but ducks.



