

## Trip to Iceland

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On 3<sup>rd</sup> of March at seven o'clock in the morning we packed ourselves in one of our school's cars and started driving to Helsinki. That is how we started travelling, and by moving with car, aeroplane, bus and minibus we ended up to Reykjavik, in our hotel, The Metropolitan. After travelling for eleven hours we were, of course, tired, but still curious – so after we had settled down, we found a tourist map and took a look at Iceland's capital. When coming back to the hotel, everyone said that they found a great food place.

Next day we woke up early to have breakfast on 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the hotel and started waiting our rental cars to come along. There was some kind of a confusion with the cars and we ended up to take taxi and drive on the car rental by ourselves to get them. Next we got in the cars, one four-wheel drive jeep and one rear-wheel drive people carrier. The weather was awful, it was windy and it was sleeting, so we had to drive carefully. After all, we got safely to the first stop, to steam-warmed greenhouses, and later, after six more travelling-hours to the national park of Skaftafell. We would stay the next night in Hotel Skaftafell, and at the lobby we met the icelandic people. We had an delicious dinner and got to know each other better before going to our rooms, tired again.

On beautifully sunny Wednesday-morning we took a walk in national park of Skaftafell and saw a real live glacier for first time in our lives. After small break we continued driving with cars, took a stop at amazing ice-lake, saw a fish farm and lots and lots of great mountains. The views were beautiful but pretty stark to one who has gotten used to forests all around. At last we ended up to our destination, Höfn – a small and awfully adorable town on South-West coast of Iceland. We went to Ásgardur, a high-quality guesthouse that we were staying at. Supper we had at one of the teachers, Esko's summerhouse. In the evening we took a walk at Höfn, saw a scary monument of the drowned at the sea and listened to the powerful roaring of great Atlantic Ocean just within a stone's throw away.

On Thursday-morning we took a look to the school our friends were studying at, FAS, and then went to the Glacier-exhibition, probably one of the best places in the world to learning things of glaciers. Because it was really windy and a snowstorm, we had to spend that day inside, so next we went to see a cultural museum. Then, after another delicious lunch, we saw some presentations about glacier-measurements. Then we made groups with both Icelandic and Finnish students on each and started projects about entrepreneur. Next we visited a great handicraft-shop, went back to the guesthouse to change clothes and headed for the outdoor swimming pools; it was winding a lot and snowing too, so it was really weird to lay comfortably in warm water next to crust of snow. This time at the evening we had a supper at Hjördis' house.

Next morning we walked to the harbour and went sailing to the ocean with a small boat. Then we walked around Höfn with some of Icelandic students and went back to school for a lunch. Next we made posters of projects we were preparing the day before. We had some time to rest at the guesthouse and then headed for the Icelandic food festival that Icelandic students had prepared. Food was great, and really interesting. After singing some traditional songs we went back to the guesthouse.

On Saturday we presented our powerpoint-shows that we had made before the trip, about the climate change. Then we watched a film from same subject, the *Venus-theory*. Then we went to Hoffell to visit a farm near the mountains, had an opportunity to pet some horses, saw mountains and a glacier again and played in snow and made a snowman. Back in Höfn we rested for few hours in Ásgardur and at the evening went back to school for barbecue and picture show.

Sunday was about watching views. We drove to breakwater and took a walk by it; we saw huge waves and some seals swimming, found seashells and walked at the black volcanic beach. Next we came back to Höfn and had a great lunch of lamb at Hotel Höfn. Back at the school we made posters about good and bad things of our trip. Then it was time for farewell; we had to leave our friends and Höfn, and start travelling back to home again. We left our rental cars to airport of Höfn, flew to Reykjavik with small, 19-seated aeroplane and took a bus to Hotel Metropolitan. At the evening we took a last look around Reykjavik before returning to our hotel and going to bed.

Monday-morning, at five o'clock, we had to take our luggage and drive with buses to Keflavik airport. Another long flight over the Atlantic Ocean and we found ourselves from our foresty home country.