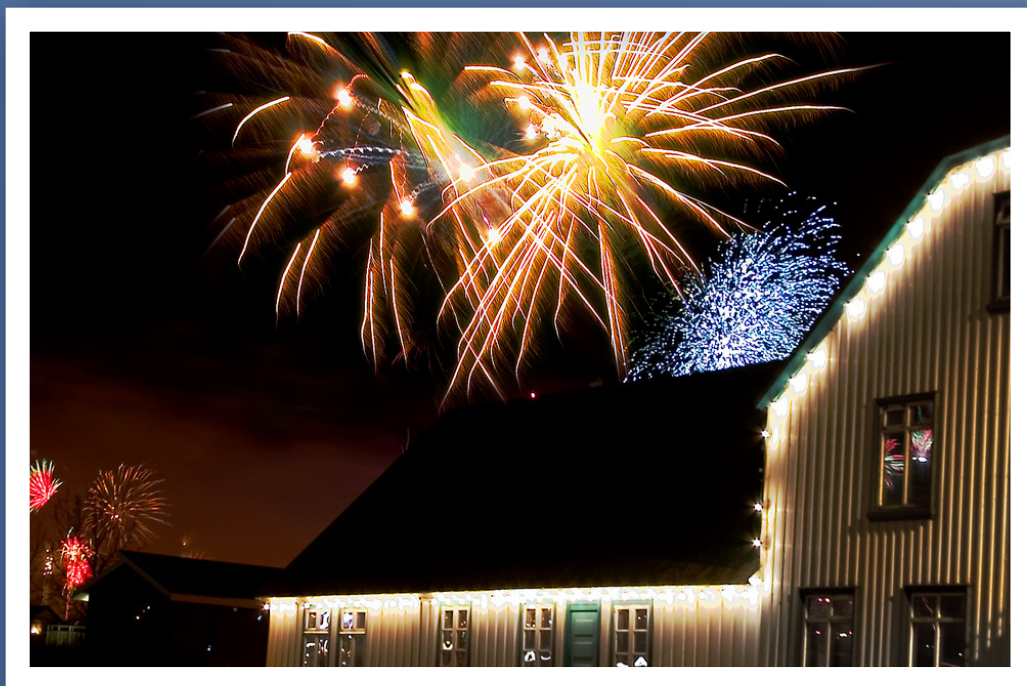


ROVERWAY 2009 NEWSFLASH

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Akureyri, Iceland

Contact us

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Happy New Year!

The year 2009 is already here and Roverway comes closer every day. Registration is going well and we are expecting around 1500 scouts in July. It looks like we will have participants from the majority of the European countries as well as some participants from other regions.

Preparations are going very well and the team is working harder than ever on planning things and making everything ready for July.

Registration will soon be over and after that we will start making the Tribes and tell you if you got your most wanted Journey.



Althingi

We have chosen to name the fixed camp Althingi. Here you can learn more about the original Althingi.

Thingvellir is a natural shrine of outstanding natural beauty. Many of the most momentous events of Icelandic history took place at Thingvellir, where Althingi was founded in 930 and continued to assemble every summer until 1798. It was at Thingvellir that the Icelandic nation agreed to adopt Christianity in 1000 and the modern republic was founded in 1944. In 1928 Thingvellir was made Iceland's first national park. In 2004 Thingvellir was officially added to UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Althingi was to regulate common affairs of the country, pass common laws, and arbitrate the disputes between the local areas and decide judicially regarding killings and lawlessness.

For 868 years every summer, chieftains, landed farmers and ordinary men and women from all parts of Iceland left their homes and villages and headed towards Thingvellir for the annual fortnight long meeting which would start on the first Thursday in the eleventh week of each summer. The trip on horseback could take up to 17 days from the eastern part of the country. Upon arrival, people set camp and temporary booths to hold meetings and trade. The plains of Thingvellir turned into a bustling open-air mart with huge crowds milling about among tents, booths, rocks, sheep and horses.

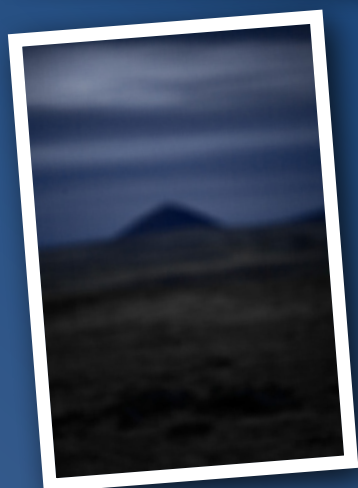
At Lögrétta (Law Council) the Godar, the all powerful local chieftains and bishops gathered to debate and pass new laws and amend old ones. Then the Law-Speaker (lögsögumaður), the president of Lögrétta would stand on a nearby tall cliff, the Law Rock (Lögberg) in Almannagjá and recite the laws from memory. The high lava flank of the fissure behind him gave good acoustics which gave resonance to his voice. His words were recited by other speakers standing on farther cliffs to reach the entire audience.

On June 17th 1944 the then Speaker of Althingi stood in the same place to declare Iceland a sovereign republic to a large assembly of people at Thingvellir.

Originally the land which was chosen as the site of Althingi was called Bláskógar or Blue Woods and belonged to a farmer found guilty of murdering his slave. As punishment his land was confiscated and put under public ownership. The chieftains then chose this spot for Alþingi and changed its name to Thingvellir. It was tailor made for the purpose of assembling large number of people, close to the population centre with water and grazing areas.

The annual summer event at Thingvellir was not only a venue for passing laws. There thieves were flogged, guilty men were beheaded or hanged, sinful women were executed by drowning, outlaws were banished, religious appointments were made, marriages were arranged, contracts were negotiated, old feuds were settled, matters of honour were decided by duels, and distant news were exchanged."

Information from: http://iceland.vefur.is/iceland_travel_info/national_parks/thingvellir.htm
Interesting link about Althingi timeline: <http://www.althingi.is/kynningarefni/>



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Opening ceremony

We have set a place for the opening ceremony. It will be in front of the University of Iceland, very close to the downtown of Reykjavik. The reasons we want to use the University is because it is very well located and easily accessible for busses on one hand. But on the other hand it is our symbol for education and, as we know, there is so much education going on during Roverway.

Althingi – fixed camp

Christmas in our hearts

At Althingi there will be a Christmas tent. Christmas makes most people happy and lights up the winter. Even if the Icelandic summer probably does not need to be lightened up, we still want to give you the opportunity to learn about the Icelandic Christmas traditions as well as sharing with everyone else your favourite Christmas tradition from home. If you have something you want to share in this tent please contact us at roverway@skatar.is and tell us about this.

As most Scout camps are in the summer time we do usually not learn much about each others winter season traditions and we want to open up to that.

If you do not celebrate Christmas but some other related holiday you are more than welcome to share that with everyone.

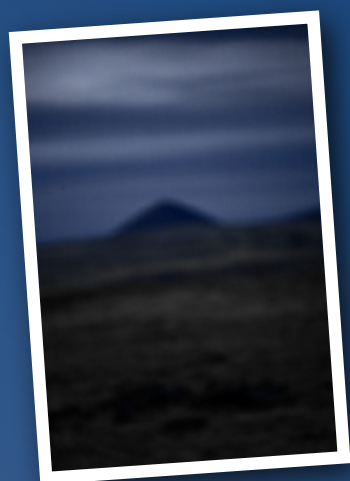
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Snæfellsnes, Iceland



DESCRIPTION OF A JOURNEY

Thorsmork

Named after the Nordic god Thor, Thorsmork is one of the most incredible spots on the small island of ice. A valley, locked in with glaciers on each side, accessible only by jeeps, converted busses and feet; whether they be the average two on humans or those four on horses.

The bed of the valley is filled with coarse gravel and river Krossa blasts its way through, splitting up and re-gathering, forming a maze of little islets and river benches. The river is quite powerful and can be dangerous but the tribe members of this Journey will learn how to safely cross such a river. Stay in this quiet oasis and experience the breathtaking nature.

Contact us

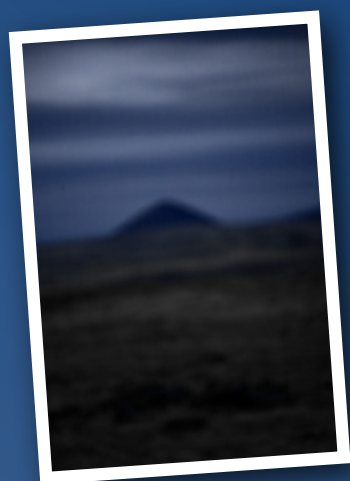
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OBJECTIVES:

- Experience the nature, glaciers and wild rivers and how to live with it in a save way
- To learn about the old Nordic gods
- Help the rangers with some of their projects





DESCRIPTION OF A JOURNEY

Westman Isles

Imagine being woken up in the middle of the night by an alarming roar from the warning sirens, stepping out of your soft bed, looking drowsily out of your window and seeing how the ground has literally opened up and is gushing out red-glowing lava.

Seems like something that would only happen in one of those Hollywood disaster movies, but this was exactly what faced the inhabitants of the community in Westmann Isles on a cold winter night of January 23rd, 1973. The eruption started, without a warning and lasted for

almost half a year, drowning half of the houses in lava and laying a thick blanket of tephra over the whole island. All but one islander survived the disaster and most of them moved back after the eruption had faded away. The island is now considerably bigger, due to the grand flow of lava, and the new volcano that formed in the eruption now bears the name Eldfell.

The Tribe will stay on the Westmann Isles and visit a project called Pompeii of the North where houses are being dug up from the lava. There is more to do on the island, with cliffs filled with the cacophony of the seagulls and the Puffins, the touristic mascot of Iceland, digging their homes into the ground.

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ELMAR ORRI GUNNARSSON

NAME: Elmar Orri Gunnarsson – Journey team

Elmar has been an active scout in Landnemar for eleven years. In Landnemar he is a leader in RS. Plútó, a troop for 16-18 years old teenagers, is very active and has many great ideas. He is also a member of the Rover troop in Landnemar, Hrafnar Óðins, which is mainly focusing on international cooperation.

Elmar likes hiking and climbing, both in Iceland and abroad. He has been to many scout camps and arranged a couple too. In the last years his mind has gained interest in international cooperation, especially with the Nordic countries. In the near future he is even considering moving to another Nordic country to study.

MOTTO IN LIFE: Hakuna Matata

FOOD HE WOULD NEVER EAT (AGAIN):

Naglasúpan hans Hjalta Andrésar (His friend's nailsoup)

FAVOURITE PLACE IN ICELAND AND WHY IS IT YOUR FAVOURITE:

Örævasveit, especially Hnappavellir, the largest rock climbing area in Iceland.



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