

DEAR FRIENDS!

Registration has now closed and we are thrilled about the number of registrations. As you may remember, we told you in the last issue of this newsletter that we were expecting around 1500 participants. It now looks like there will be closer to 2500 participants.

All these registrations mean that there will be some extra work for us and more things to take care of but we very much look forward to seeing you all in July :)

JOURNEY CHOICES

Every team has chosen 3 Journeys that they would like to take part in. We are now dealing with the fact that some Journeys are very popular while others have not been chosen at all. As we would like everyone to get some of their wishes fulfilled or at least something very similar to what they chose we are making such arrangements now. Some Journeys will be doubled, but without the Tribes spending much time together. For example: there are two tribes going to hike

the Laugarvegur hiking route, one will start hiking on Monday afternoon and get an extra day in Thorsmork in the end but the other one stays one night in Landmannalaugar and arrives in Thorsmork on the Friday.

We hope you appreciate that we are doing everything we can to fulfil everyone's wishes and we will contact some teams about their choices.

CONTACT US

Bandalag islenskra skata
Roverway 2009
Hraunbae 123
IS-110 Reykjavik
Iceland

Tel: +354-550 9800
Fax: +354-550 9801
www.roverway.is
roverway@scout.is





CARNIVAL

THE INTERNATIONAL ROVERWAY 2009 CARNIVAL

Open up to culture! Open up to the festivities of the International Carnival at Roverway 2009, and enjoy yourself while introducing the wonders of your home country to your fellow scouts, not to mention your experience of the wonders of other countries.

Join your fellow countrymen in preparation of your country's booth and introduce your traditions, music, dancing, food, sweets etc. Open exhibitions, teach traditional, or not so traditional, games, have loads and loads of fun, and make new friends.

When evening closes in, an Icelandic dinner will be served for each village at their designated village restaurant set up only for this occasion. The festivities will carry on into the night at the diverse scout cafes and in the villages.

There will be a printed program for the Carnival and each country participating in the event will be required to send their part to roverway@scout.is before 1st of July 2009, as well as ordering a booth and other material necessary.

In the beginning the Carnival Central Bank opens, where you can get your Carnival currency, the trick is to sell your activities to gain money to participate in the other activities.

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ICELANDIC WEATHER

Iceland's weather is cool, and the Icelandic climate is temperate. The warm North Atlantic Current ensures generally higher temperatures than in most places of similar latitude in the world. Iceland's winters are mild and windy while the summers are cool which is typical for Scandinavia.

There are some variations in the climate between different parts of the island. Oftentimes, the south coast is warmer, wetter and windier than the north. Snowfall in winters is more common in the north of Iceland.

Iceland's highest air temperature recorded was 30.5°C (86.9°F) in 1939 on the southeastern coast. The lowest temperature was -38°C (-36.4°F) in

1918 at Grímsstaðir in the northeast of Iceland. Temperature records for Reykjavík are 24.8°C (76.6°F) on 11 August 2004, and -24.5°C (-12.1°F) on 21 January 1918.

Iceland's weather has a seasonal change in the length of day and night, creating unique weather phenomena. In midwinter, there is a period of no sunlight, and darkness prevails. Those dark days and nights are a Scandinavian phenomenon called The Polar Nights. This is perfect to view another weather occurrence: the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights).

In midsummer, daylight takes over and there is no night darkness during June and July. The name for this is the Midnight Sun.

<http://goscandinavia.about.com/od/iceland1/ss/weathericeland.htm>

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EQUIPMENT

As usual for camping you need to bring a lot of equipment. However, you don't have to worry about bringing kitchen equipment as this will be provided by the hosts. You will have to bring your plate, mug, cutlery and any other personal things to be able to eat the food but transporting such things is not a problem.

You need also to bring personal belongings such as tents, sleeping bags and mattresses. We just want to make sure that you will be comfortable while in Iceland so here are a few guidelines.

SLEEPING BAGS

You need a sleeping bag that is comfortable down to 0°C. Not that we necessarily expect such low temperature, but just in case.

TENTS

We understand that everyone has different needs when it comes to tents. Make sure that there are no poles or pegs missing as it might be hard to replace them once you start putting up your tent in the middle of nowhere in Iceland. You have to make sure that it is safely fastened to the ground as you never know when the wind starts blowing.

If you participate in the Journey IS02 – Hornstrandir or W09 – Robinson Crusoe (or a similar, added Journey) it is VERY important that your tent is a lightweight one so you can carry it the whole way.

SLEEPING MATTRESSES

Bring one. It is really cold lying on the ground!

BACKPACKS

As always, the most comfortable way to travel is to have all your belongings in one big backpack. For most Journeys it is also necessary to have a good daypack as you often have to take you waterproofs and food for the day with you in the morning and will not need the rest of your things until later in the day. The daypack should be big enough to carry, food for the day, warm clothes, waterproof clothes as well as fun things such as a Camera.

Again if you will be in the Journey IS02 – Hornstrandir or W09 – Robinson Crusoe (or similar added Journey) it is VERY important that your big backpack is a good one with comfortable straps over the shoulders and around your waist. You will be carrying it during most of the Journey.

If you have problems with transporting your equipment you can always contact us and see if you can rent the equipment from us. We do not have equipment for everyone, but we have some, so do not hesitate to contact us at roverway@skatar.is

In the next issue we will tell you all about the clothing you will need to bring to feel comfortable in any weather here in Iceland : D

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DESCRIPTION OF A JOURNEY CRAWLING THROUGH CAVES

Iceland is just an infant, if compared to the big continental countries around the globe. And since the landscape is so young it serves as a rough diamond, with unique environmental wonders. The lava which still flows occasionally from the island's many volcanoes has provided the country with many grand caves and for ages the settlers used them for housing, since Iceland wasn't very rich in building materials.

In this Journey, the tribe will get the opportunity to explore the countless caves close to the capital area. The caves are of various sizes and shapes, so the participants will get all kinds of experiences, from crawling through small entrances to sitting in absolute darkness, maybe chanting a melody. The tribe will get training in abseiling and climbing and will possibly have the opportunity of abseiling down to a cave.

Kindly note that this is not a suitable Journey for those suffering from claustrophobia or fear of heights!

In addition to visiting the caves the tribe will have the possibility to splash around in one of the countless nearby swimming pools of the Capital area.

OBJECTIVES

- To learn about geology in Iceland and how it has made the caves that are visited
- To learn how to climb and abseil as that is sometimes the only way in and out of caves.

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NANNA GUÐRÚN BJARNADÓTTIR

Nanna has been in the scout group Hraunbuar in Hafnarfjörður since she was nine years old. Today she is employed by the group which takes care of the members and programme. Nanna is also a member of the Rover crew RS. Trail in the Hraunbuar. She got the presidential award in 2005 and she is also active in the local Rescue team.

Nanna took part in Scout 2001 and World Scout Jamboree 2007 as well as participating in Agora in Kandersteg 2008.

MOTTO

Make more or desire less

FOOD SHE WOULD NEVER EAT

Eye of a sheep (it is commonly eaten along with the head in Iceland).

FAVOURITE PLACE IN ICELAND

Hvalfjörður, lot of beautiful places and mountains that you can either hike or drive on.

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