

FROM THE EDITOR

This is the seventh issue of our newsletter. Registrations are still going up and are now over 3000 including participants and IST. This has made the task for the organising team a little bit tough over the last couple of months but as we say in Iceland “þetta reddast” or “we will make it, some-

how”. All tribes are now formed and you should have started exchanging ideas online by the time this newsletter is sent out.

In this issue we will explore the Icelandic language, the clothes you’ll need, the Althingi camp site, IST assignments and the online chat.



ALTHINGI CAMP SITE

A dedicated team is making sure that the camp site will fulfill all our expectations for the Althingi part of RoverWay. The campsite is located at the Ulfljotsvatn Scout Centre about 70 km from Reykjavik. It has been a Scout centre since 1941 and has been used for various Scout events over the decades.

The campsite team is led by Ásgeir Ólafsson who is a facility manager in his daily work life. The task of his team is to make sure that enough toilets and showers are available. Plans for putting up

the camp and taking it down are in place and will run smoothly, so that your stay at the Ulfljotsvatn Scout Centre will be a great experience.

At the centre of the campsite you’ll find “middle earth” where main shops, cafés and some programme areas will be located. The camping areas will be located around “middle earth” all within 10 min walking distance. Other programme areas are all within 15 min walking distance from “middle earth”.

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ICELANDIC

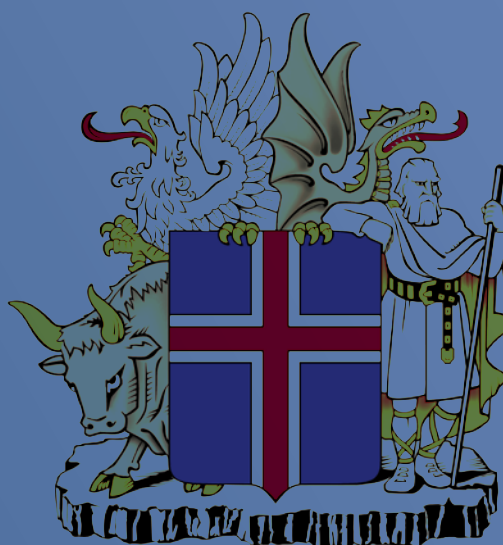
The oldest preserved texts in Icelandic were written around 1100. Many of these are actually based on material like poetry and laws, preserved orally for generations before being written down. The most famous of these, which was written in Iceland from the 12th century onward, are without doubt the Icelandic Sagas, the historical writings of Snorri Sturluson and Edda poems.

The language of the era of the sagas is called Old Icelandic, a western dialect of Old Norse, the common Scandinavian language of the Viking era. The Danish rule of Iceland from 1380 to 1918 has had little effect on the evolution of Icelandic, which remained in daily use among the general population except for a short period between 1700 and 1900 where the use of Danish by common Icelanders became popular. The same applied to the U.S. occupation of Iceland during World War II.

Though Icelandic is considered more archaic than other living Germanic languages, important changes have occurred. The pronunciation for instance, changed considerably from the 12th to the 16th century, especially of vowels (in particular, á, æ, au, and y/ý).

The modern Icelandic alphabet has developed from a standard established in the 19th century, by the Danish linguist Rasmus Rask primarily. It is ultimately based heavily on an orthographic standard created in the early 12th century by a mysterious document referred to as The First Grammatical Treatise by an anonymous author who has later been referred to as the First Grammarian. The later Rasmus Rask standard was basically a re-creation of the old treatise, with some changes to fit concurrent Germanic conven-

tions, such as the exclusive use of k rather than c. Various old features, like ð, had actually not seen much use in the later centuries, so Rask's standard constituted a major change in practice. Later 20th century changes are most notably the adoption of é, which had previously been written as je (reflecting the modern pronunciation), and the abolition of in 1974.



Written Icelandic has, thus, changed relatively little since the 13th century. As a result of this, and of the similarity between the modern and ancient grammar, modern speakers can still understand, more or less, the original sagas and Edda that were written some eight hundred years ago. This ability is sometimes mildly overstated by Icelanders themselves, most of whom actually read the Sagas with updated modern spelling and footnotes — though otherwise intact (much as with modern English readers of Shakespeare). Many Icelanders can also understand the original manuscripts, with a little effort.

(source http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Icelandic_language)

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INTERNATIONAL SERVICE TEAM (IST)

One of the most important people are member of the International Service Team (IST). They are responsible for putting up the main camp site for Althingi and taking it down.

We have grouped assignments in different areas

1. TECHNICAL AND LOGISTIC

- construction and assembly of camp structures
- energy works
- warehouse
- delivery of materials
- transport of people and materials
- cleaning of camp and subcamps

2. CATERING FACILITIES

- support to storerooms <http://www.am.hi.is/handritinheima/templatemyndir/bok.jpg>
- canteen preparation
- meal delivery

3. COMMUNICATION

- translations
- Media centre
- public relations
- information
- reception
- management

4. SECRETARIAL TASKS

- administration
- check-in procedures
- reception
- information

5. CREATIVITY

- folklore
- entertainment
- music and singing
- filming
- support to workshop

6. SECURITY

- security staff
- reception at the entrance
- security of camp and subcamps

IST members will get more information's about tasks in May.

PARTICIPATION FORM DIVIDED BY COUNTRIES

Austria	149	Liechtenstein	24	Latvia	1
Belgium	33	Luxembourg	73	Malta	25
Denmark	12	Netherlands	18	Poland	176
Finland	84	Spain	495	Portugal	171
France	217	Sweden	42	Slovak	14
Germany	126	Switzerland	55	Slovenia	128
Greece	41	UK	181	Romania	16
Iceland	300	Cyprus	23	Bulgaria	22
Ireland	54	Croatia	38	Montenegro	10
Italy	212	Czech republic	83		
		Hungry	22	TOTAL	2.845

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WHAT TO BRING

Much of the basic gear is pretty straightforward for backpackers and hikers.

SUGGESTED LIST OF EQUIPMENT

- The weather in Iceland in July is usually good but it can be unpredictable.
- Bring along "clothes for all occasions" and dress in layers.
- Remember that you will be there for several days and we shall try not to miss any activity, certainly not for any adverse weather condition.
- The days will be very long at those latitudes, make sure you will be comfortable outdoors and indoors.

FOR COLD DAYS

- Normally a good sweater and a wind-proof jacket should be fine.

MOST IMPORTANT ARE

- Rain- and windproof outer garments
- A heavy (warm) sweater
- A medium heavy shirt (or two)
- Waterproof hiking boots (soft to medium hard)
- A couple or so pairs of warm socks.

IT IS ALSO ADVISABLE TO BRING

- Long-johns (or similar light warm inner garments)
- A scarf
- Hat (warm)
- Gloves

FOR WARM DAYS

- Light parka ("wind breaker")
- Medium sweater or pull-over
- Sneakers or other comfortable everyday footwear (for outdoors)
- Normal Spring/Autumn clothing (winter clothes in south Europe).
- Shorts and swimming gear are also advised.

Jeans are not advised for glacier trips or other, long hikes where people risk getting wet because the wet jeans soak up so much body heat, as well as multiplying their weight. Jeans are, of course, okay for everyday use.

- Sleeping bag - YES
- Camera - YES
- Passport - YES
- Your own medical insurance - YES
- Large garbage bag (for emergency raincoat that you forgot)
- Sharp pencils (they write on wet paper)
- Medium size clear plastic bags (to put your notebook in, when it rains)
- Do not forget a day-trip backpack to keep always with you.
- Items for personal hygiene (soap, shampoo, and others) and two towels
- Blister patches of some sort. Getting blistered feet on a field trip isn't fun.
- Lip balm. Iceland can get windy, and I don't need to remind anyone that chapped lips are painful.
- Personal hygiene items and two towels.
- Alarm clock/wristwatch with alarm.
- Small flashlight. There's almost continuous daylight in Iceland during the summer, but I found a few occasions to use mine.
- Pencils, pens, and notebook for taking notes in class.
- Small sealable plastic bags for your notebooks, currency, and passport to make sure they don't get soaked.
- Camera.
- Passport.

Medical Insurance. Make sure that the policy covers field trips and day excursions. Some policies might not cover day trips in the mountains, whale watching excursions, or other activities that the actuarial profession considers "dangerous" or "unusual".

Sandals. A pair of lightweight sandals is useful for indoor wear, since outdoor shoes and boots aren't worn indoors in Iceland. And also when you are crossing glacier rivers in the highlands.

That about sums it up. You will want to leave extra space for some souvenirs, especially the lopapeysa (Icelandic sweater) that almost everyone on the trip bought. Yes, they're expensive, and yes, they're very, very warm.

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A MODIFIED GEAR LIST WITH COMMENTS

The weather in July can be REALLY variable. Snow can fall overnight on the mountains. On the other hand, it can also be fairly warm, sunny weather. The weather can also change quite drastically during the day, so layering is definitely a good idea.

BASIC CLOTHING

This is the stuff to bring if you don't want to suffer.

Wind and waterproof outer shell - both jacket and trousers. Waterproof/breathable fabrics are really good for this, but some people on the trip managed quite well with good non-breathable rain gear. Ponchos don't work in Iceland; there's simply too much wind.

- Fleece top or good sweater - You can manage with a medium-weight fleece.
- Non-cotton trousers of some sort for field trips/hiking.
- Good synthetic long underwear as a base layer - both a top and a bottom. Cotton isn't a good idea for these garments.
- Good socks.
- Good hat ware

Light or mid-weight boots should work in most occasions. Considering how much it can rain in Iceland, make sure they're either properly waterproofed or have a waterproof/breathable liner. Wet feet suck.

A hat of some sort as an alternative, or in addition to, the hood on your jacket.

Gloves or mittens, in case the weather gets cold. Lightweight fleece gloves are really welcome when the weather gets cold and windy.

Headnet. At Althingi campsite, the midges can be annoying. Depending on the time of year, some of them also bite. Be sure to get something with no-see-um netting (very fine mesh). Headnets can be bought at the campsite - there's no guarantee that they'll be available due to limited stocks.

EVERYDAY CLOTHING

This is for everyday wear before, during or after RoverWay.

- An additional pair of shoes for everyday wear when staying in cities like Akureyri or Reykjavik and they can serve dual duty as shoes to wear, hiking boots are perfectly acceptable :-)
- One or two changes of "normal" clothes for everyday wear - jeans, t-shirts, etc.
- Shorts and swimming gear are definitely a good idea. Iceland has a lot of swimming pools (one of the benefits of geothermal energy), so do bring a swimsuit.

OTHER THINGS NEEDED FOR THE TRIP

Sleeping bag and mattresses. Make sure your bag is in a waterproof stuff sack.

Pack. For the field trips and everyday events, a daypack (~30 L) is adequate. As with most things on this trip, make sure it's waterproof.

Water bottle(s). Make sure you fill them up before you head out for the day.

THE ONLINE CHAT OPENED

Groups can now get to know each other and chat on Facebook about their Journey's.

More information can be found on
www.roverway.is

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FRIÐRIK ÞÓR TRYGGVASON

NAME: Friðrik Þór Tryggvason – Althingi team

Friðrik has been scouting since he was 8 years old. He joined the Scouts in Uppsala, Sweden 1992 and when he moved to Iceland in '95 he joined the Scout group in his hometown Kópavogur. He has tried a number of positions there, from being a patrol leader to being a member of the group board in Kópavogur. He has also worked a few summers in the Icelandic Boy and Girl Scout Association's summer camps at lake Úlfljótsvatn.

Friðrik has done some leaders' training within the Icelandic Boy and Girl Scout Association, patrol leaders course, troop leaders course and some smaller courses on Scouting. He also earned the Presidential Badge in 2002.

Friðrik can't recall how many Icelandic Scout camps he has been to, but when asked about international Scouting he smiles and starts telling stories from Blair Atholl in Scotland 1998 and 2006, Scout 2001 in Sweden and an Easter in Germany 2005 where he attended IMWe.

FOOD HE WOULD NEVER EAT: "I haven't been offered anything yet which I haven't been willing to try".

MOTTO IN LIFE: "Be prepared"

FAVOURITE PLACE IN ICELAND: Like many other Icelandic Scouts, Úlfljótsvatn on a calm summer night is the place where he would choose to be. Another one of his favourite places is the area around a mountain close to Reykjavík called Esjan. His Scout group has a small mountain cabin there that he has many good memories from.

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