

13.7.2015, Hveragerdi, Reykjadalur

Unfortunately, the weather forecast was very correct: heavy rain all day... It had 12C but felt cold due to the humidity. We wore the gum boots right away in the morning.



We drove to Hveragerdi the next bigger place located in the geothermal area Hengill. All over the place are hot springs, sometimes with 180C or hotter. The story is, that the town got public lightning in 1906 only after a man fell into one of the hot springs and was boiled to death.

In this town is also the restaurant „Kjöt&Kunst“. They are cooking with geothermal energy by using natural hot steam, they call it „earth cooking“. Since the weather was so bad, we took a rain break and tried the geothermal bread, soup and mashed fish. However, honestly, we had better non-geothermal food before.



Next to the restaurant is a geothermal park, which was established around some of the most famous hot springs. Some have dried out since many years, but may come back to life again depending on the ground water level. One story about the "Garbage spring" says, that the people used the dried up geothermal spring as a garbage dump. However, when the next earth quake happened, all the content came blowing out again and was spread all over town.

It was fascinating to see, how the boiling hot water just comes out from the ground.



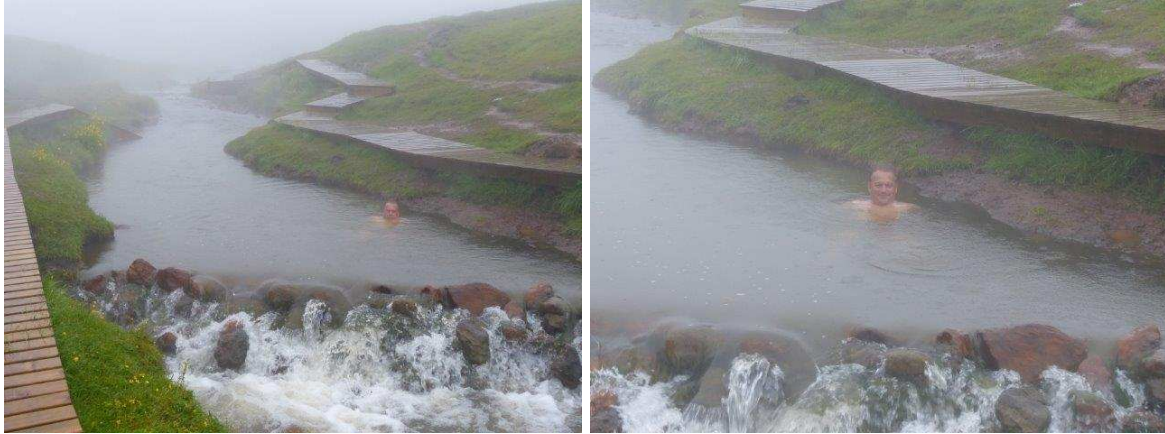
In the geothermal park the water is still hot enough to boil an egg. This egg you can eat afterwards at the reception...



This area has a few more natural hot springs and also rivers where you can take a dip. Despite the rainy weather we decided to take the 3.5 km hike to the warm stream Reykjadalur.



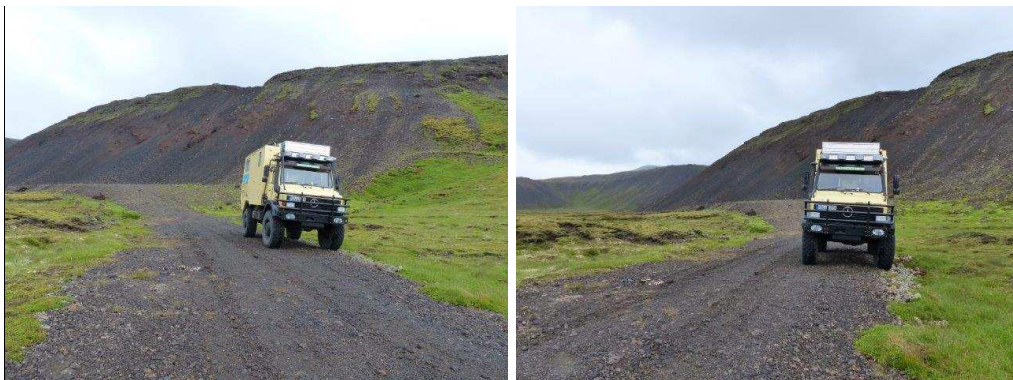
As we climbed, the visibility got worse. Though the reward was pretty cool, sitting in a natural warm stream in the middle of nowhere...



While we soaked in the warm water amidst the fog it started to rain heavily and the water got much cooler. Maybe all the cool rainwater was flowing into the river upstream? In very cold wind we had to dress our already wet clothes and walk back. When we arrived back at the car, we were freezing and totally wet (down to our undies, if anyone wants to know...)



Luckily, when camping, you have everything with you in the car. A quick change of clothes and some hot tea helped to warm up again. Afterwards we parked nearby on the parking lot of the local sports ground as we saw some other campervans parking there. However, at 23pm we were chased away again (or had to pay a camping fee). This time it took a bit longer to find a spot for the night, as we by chance entered the highway to Reykjavik and couldn't turn around again.



While searching for the night spot we passed by the geothermal power plant of Hengill which produces very impressive steam clouds day and night.



14.7.2015, Reykjavik

We are in Reykjavik, the northernmost capital of Europe. Most likely no-one has travelled this distance from arriving in Seydisfjörður to the capital slower than us... We were parking at one of the swimming pools and walked 2km to the city center. We noticed a lot of construction work going on (and heard the noise of many jack hammers, feeling immediately like home). But you also notice an abundance of cafes and restaurants, the most popular safe haven in such weather we reckon.



At the old harbour a lot is happening, especially the whale-watching-tour operators are very busy.



On our way back, we passed by the famous Hallgrim church. The design is a reference to basalt columns...



Hopefully Reykjavik is too big and busy to have campervan-inspectors running around the city to spot campervans. We drive a bit to the outskirts and do find a good spot. All kinds of big toys are already parked there. We join in and are sure, nobody will notice us inbetween such a company...



For dinner we are having home cooked potato soup made from organic beach potatoes of our own harvest. It was quite yummy if we may say.

15.7. 2015, Reykjavik

Nautholsvik in Reykjavik is a geothermal beach, where warm water is piped into the sea. Light sand was brought in and now it is possible to have beach holidays in the city. Honestly, we preferred the hot tub, as the sea was still very cold despite the hot water. But locals donned their wet suits and went swimming even in the “real” sea, at 8 C many even with insulated swimming gloves and shoes.



After soaking for so long, we were really hungry and wanted to try the world famous hot dogs of „Bæjarins bestu pylsur“. A sign says that even Bill Clinton had eaten a hot dog there. Honestly, it was a very normal hot dog and also rather small. We were still hungry.

Therefore, the next coffee shop on the way was ours. While we enjoyed our carrot cake, the sky turned blue. We could sit OUTSIDE WITHOUT a jacket. Amazing!



For a change we didn't have to comfort ourselves because of bad weather, but we could celebrate the good weather! And we did so with Fish&Chips and ice cream. Somehow today must have been declared International Junk Food Day.



Last point on today's agenda was the „Volcano Show“ of Villi Knudsen. Already his father was chasing and filming volcano eruptions and Villi had carried on this heritage. He personally was at the cinema when we were there and we had a little chat. He mentioned, that all his life he is „actively waiting“... At the slightest sign of a possible eruption, he had grabbed his camera and was on his way. There are several screenings per day and now during dinner time we had our private screening.



Since we wanted to have a bath in Nautholsvik again tomorrow morning, we looked for a parking space near the geothermal beach. Nautholsvik is located between the domestic airport and the fancy hot water storage facility of Reykjavik. Close by we parked on a huge parking space, which was totally empty and appeared to belong to some administrative building.

