

16.7. 2015, Reykjavik

After soaking nicely in the Nautholsvik hot tub, we continued exploring the city. Of course we had to see the Harpa, the famous concert and conference hall of Reykjavik. The Harpa was for many years the only ongoing real construction site in the city and the completion sure for a long time, too. Not far from the Harpa and is a famous sculpture of a Viking boat where bus loads of tourist are dropped off every day.



The afternoon program included a visit at „Sandholt“, one of the best bakeries in town. The service was a bit overwhelmed with the amount of guests, but the apple cake was delicious and even still a little warm.



After we finished our coffee break the sun was shining and the whole city looked totally different. Chairs and tables were put outside, there were artsy happenings, street musicians, all of the sudden a very different vibe compared to the gloomy, rainy days.



Also today we enjoyed an evening show: „How to become Icelandic in 60min“ from Bjarni Haukur Thorsson. Bjarni says, that Iceland needs more inhabitants (currently 320.000) and we are all very welcome. He explained the rules to become Icelandic, he is multitalented in story telling and singing, it was really funny. To believe in Elves and to like “sheep balls” are amongst the rules... In the end we received a „Certificate“, which were allowed to take home photographically. We would have loved to become Icelandic in 120 min.



Since we wanted to soak again tomorrow in the geothermal heated sea, we parked right away on the parking spot of Nautholsvik ;-)

17.7. 2015, Reykjavik, Vogar

We woke up to clear blue sky and sunshine! Wow! 18C! We almost could not recognize the pool. The beach was full, a dancing lesson was going on with loud salsa music, were we still in Iceland? Of course we were hungry again, after soaking for so long in hot water. The weather was so nice and we were afraid it would change quickly – a very reasonable assumption after our previous experience so far. Therefore we took out our camping chairs immediately, right on the parking place... First time to use our camping furniture! The wind was still blowing and we had to secure everything against the wind, but behind the car it was ok to bear for a short lunch break.



However, we couldnt leave town without a visit to the Sandholt cafe.

This time we discovered the „Single Gloves – Speed dating“ on our way.



But at the harbour there was much more exciting stuff to discover than single gloves... Conchita Islandia...



Afterwards we had to stock up our groceries and left Reykjavik for the Reykjanes peninsula.



We drove along the sea on a detour through fields of lava again until we reached Vogar. We stayed on the camping ground all by ourselves.

18.7.2015, Keflavik, Sandgerdi, Gardskagi

Today we started our tour around the Reykjanes peninsula. At first we visited the Duushus in Keflavik. The Danish merchant Peter Duus had bought the whole town of Keflavik in 1848 when it was still a trading place. In his former house and trading post is now a museum and the tourist information. More than 100 copies of miniature fishing vessels are exhibited here as well as fishing gear.



In Stekkjarkot, the 'suburbs' of Keflavik, there is a typical 19th centuries fishing hut, which is renovated, but one can't go inside.

In the Duushus this morning we had learned, that in the past such houses went without heating. (Hard to believe in this cold weather conditions). Some warmth was created only through body heat of its inhabitants. You can imagine the fresh air indoors. Since they didn't want the air indoors to deteriorate any further, the people in the past hardly cooked, but mainly ate skyr, the local yoghurt, and dried fish.



Via Gardur we reached Sandgerdi and saw a pretty, clean, small camp site with a washing machine. Since it was sunny and windy, we decided to do our needed washing. It took all day...

During the course of the afternoon, the wind got stronger and stronger. While the washing normally would flap or blow a little in the wind, here the clothes would pull with all forces possible on the clothes line, it was unbelievable. We had to hang up the bigger pieces together to fight the wind and at the same time were beaten severely by the already hanging pieces. We would have delivered a great show for Candid Camera.



Since not only the wind got stronger, but also the temperature lower, we had no chance to dry all our clothes. It was late already, we totally underestimated how long it would take to wash and dry everything. Well, as a result we could play Hide and Seek all evening in the car.



For the night we drove to Gardskagi, only 5km away from Sandgerdi at the top of the Reykjanes peninsula. There is a nice camping place between the old and new light house. The wind was rattling and shaking our car all night again.



19.7.2015, Stafnes, Hafnir, Hafnaberg, Gunnuhver, Reykjanesviti

Unfortunately, yesterday's wind didn't die out but rather got stronger. When opening the door, the wind would pull the door literally out of your hand.

It still had 10C but with the wind chill factor felt like 0C or even less. Actually, the wind gets much more on our nerves than the rain... (hm, guess next time when it's pouring down again, we will change our mind again).

Because of the wind, we do a quick stop in Stafnes to visit the orange light house. On the way to Stafnes we pass by a huge colony of Arctic Tern and for the first time saw their young ones.





Unfortunately, the Icelandic Bali behind Stafnes is not as hot as the Indonesian Bali. Otherwise we would have taken a break to warm up...

Behind the church of the next town of Hafnir is the big anker of the ghost ship *Jamestown*. The Jamestown stranded here in 1870 with no-one left on board...



Although the wind was blowing strongly, we walked 3km to the bird cliff Hafnaberg. Unfortunately no wind protection at all from the lava field. There were also not many birds to be seen, so we turned around and walked back quickly. On the way back we had to fight against the wind...



Although there were not many birds to be seen, the aliens came visiting us again...

One highlight followed the other, after a few kilometres we reached the „Bridge between two continents“! This is where the Eurasian tectonic plate meets the North American. Which means you can cross over from Europe to America – or the other

way around – in a few steps. This tectonic fault is still growing and gets wider by 1cm per year.



All very interesting, although it gets more and more difficult to leave the car and go out into this damn wind and cold weather.



Soon after the Continental Bridge follows the Stampar crater with lava from the last eruption 1268. It is hard to believe that the last eruption is so long ago, because the lava always looks so “fresh”.



Last sight seeing for today before we will reach Kap Reykjanesviti is the Gunnuhver spring. According to the saga, the evil Gunna was roaming around in this region until they forced her into this boiling spring and got rid of her. Gunnuhver is 20m wide and currently the biggest mud spring in Iceland. We didn't expect the steam cloud to be so wet, but after walking through the cloud, we were fully drenched.



Finally we reached Kap Reykjanesviti, which we declared our camp site for the night. An artist has put up a sculpture of a giant auk (Pinguinus Impennis). This bird is about 50cm tall and unable to fly. He got extinct in 1844, when the last few birds were killed and eaten, supposedly this bird was very tasty.



All of the sudden the sun was back out and of course Werner had to get his fishing gear and head out...



Last not least we got a pretty sun set to enjoy, most likely as a reward for braving the cold and windy weather all day today while finishing our sight seeing program.

