

19.8.2015, Hjalteyri, Akureyri

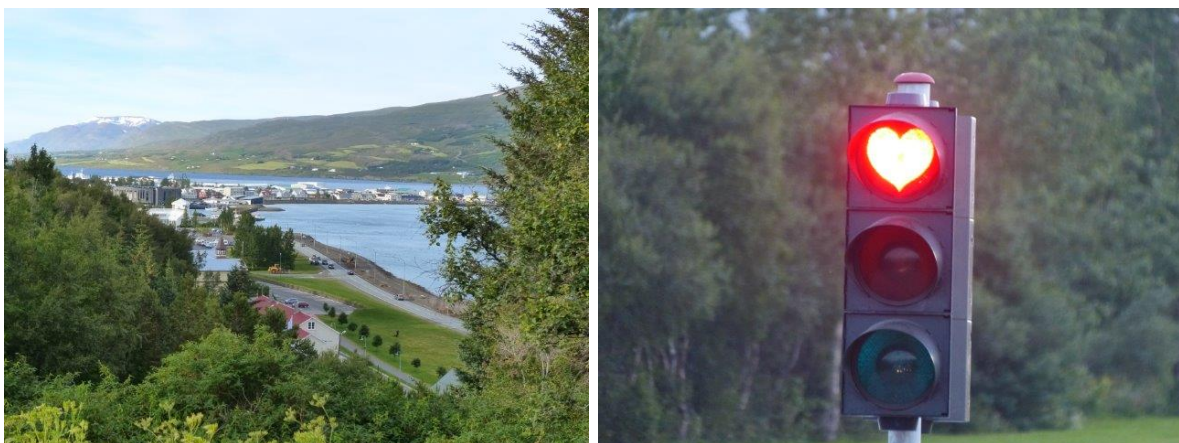
Yeah, we wake up to clear blue sky and sunshine! It seems that finally summer is here. We even can have breakfast outside at the jetty and the whales are back!



A few local fishermen arrive and catch quite a few fish from the jetty. Many more jellyfish come visit and we name them scientifically "Button" and „X" jellies as their patterns clearly show... We had an entertaining breakfast.



After lunch we finally cover the last 25 km along the fjord to Akureyri – the city with a heart for drivers... All traffic lights in the city are like the one below ♥



We are exploring city and visit all the historic houses – the oldest here, the first there, the smallest of... For such an exhaustive city sightseeing we definitely need to first load up some energy.



After a stroll through the Botanical Garden, which was founded by active housewives in 1910, we call it a day and relax in the local swimming pool. The big outdoor pool has many hot pots with different temperatures to explore.



As usual the 'Outlaws' have to leave the city for the night and we find a place just between an industrial zone and the tiny national park Krossanesborgir.



20.8.2015, Akureyri

The two days of summer are over and we wake up to rain hammering on our roof. As we parked just next to the park Krossanesborgir we decide do the big circle walk through the park. We pass by quite a few "Blaaberries"



The walk was worth it as we saw for the first time Snow Grouse! They are camouflaged so well that we initially saw only one and but as we kept on looking, we discovered more and more of the flock.



Can you find more than we did?





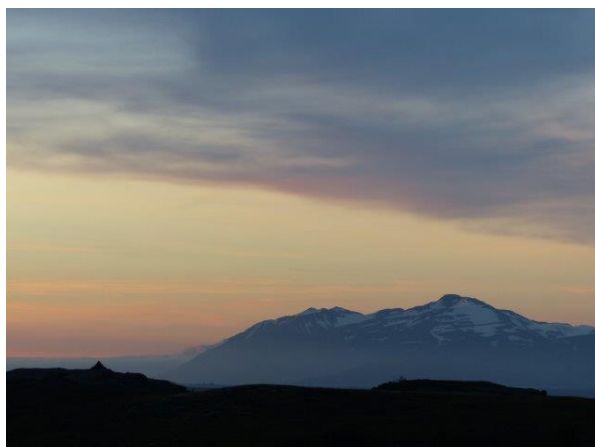
Afterwards we drive back into the city and explore the older part Oddeyrí right next to the harbour. Here all the cruise ships call for port.

In two days we saw four large cruise liners!

All of a sudden hell breaks loose and we are in the middle of the parade of the international „Ladies Circle“ as they have a conference in Akureyri. What an unexpected colorful spectacle !



We spent the night at the same place as yesterday at the Krossanesborgir Park.



21.8.2015, Akureyri, Godafoss

Heavy rain leaves us no choice but to spend the entire morning in the hot pools. It's indeed tough holiday live. The whole morning we spend moving from the hottest pot to a cooler one and back again.

Late afternoon we continue our way to Godafoss, another waterfall on our To-do-list. With the ever changing weather in Iceland and frequent rain showers we are lucky to get to see so many rainbows.



The Godafoss (Fall of the Gods) was the place where during the Christianization of Iceland, the lawmaker Porgeir in the year 1000 abdicated from his former deities.



The road 844 leading to/from the Godafoss runs along the river Skjalfandaflljot and continues further inland to the highlands. We stay overnight at a riverbank and are well positioned to start our second highland crossing tomorrow on the road F26.



22.8.2015, Aldeyjarfoss, F26 ins Hochland

If it is raining in the morning, we allow ourselves to stay in bed a bit longer. If it is raining heavily, we are allowed to stay in bed even longer. So this morning we got to sleep in quite a bit... But when we get started for our highland crossing, the sun is already peaking through the clouds again.

Yesterday ended with a waterfall and today starts with a waterfall as we visit the Aldeyjarfoss. The fall is dropping down next to some very impressive basalt columns. This fall is definitely a Top 3 candidate in our internal waterfall ranking.



Soon after we are on the highland track F26 which will lead us through the Sprengisandur passing the glacier Hofsjökull. We will cross Iceland on this highland track from North to South.



We are driving up to 800 m elevation. The landscape is typical monotonous highland scenery, however it is still spectacular. We stop frequently to take photos, but the photos can only give a limited impression of the wide open deserted space. The continuous change of rain, sun and cloud formations is impressive.



Even in the highlands one can have a little fun...





Do you also see a bird in the clouds?

Head showing to the right and the wings stretched out flying pass...?

Our last challenge for today are two quite wide river crossings...



After a bit of search we finally find a camp at 820m elevation not far from the peak of the mountain at 847m. Not the best location in view of the gale force winds shaking our car again but we have view and learned already to park our house with the nose pointing into the wind, so it is less shaky during the night.

