

21.9.2015 Snaefell, Karahnjukar, Laugavellir



Our plan to take our time and wait for better weather worked out, the sun is shining as we set out for our last trip into the highland. We want to visit Snaefell and the Vatnajökull glacier.

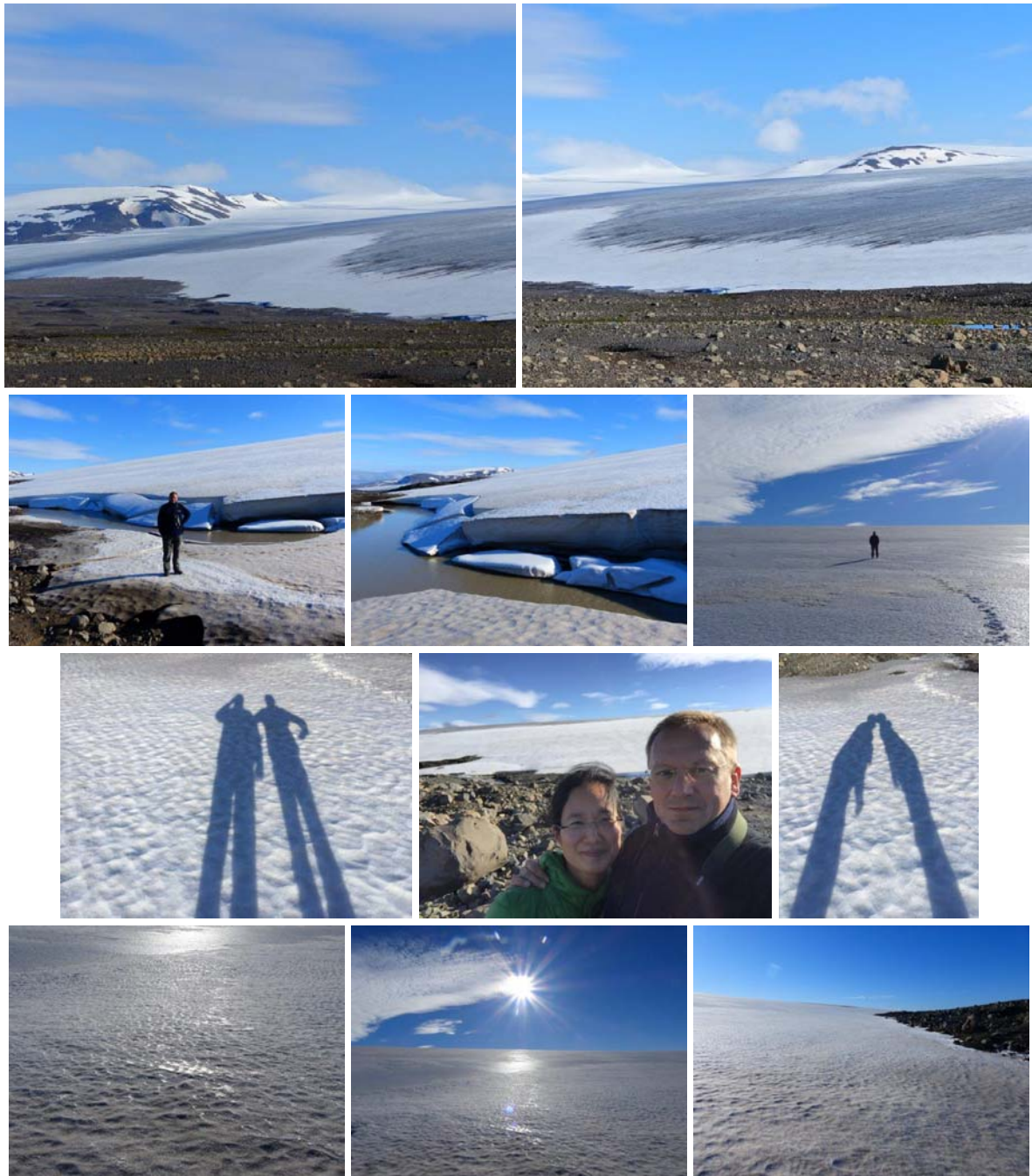
All of the sudden sparkles from the side of the road distract us, what could this be? We stop the car and walk back. Unfortunately there are no diamonds lying in the moss waiting to be collected, but the blingbling is impressive.



We drive further into the highland, this will be our last visit to one of these amazing gigantic glaciers...



Via the F909 we get to the Northern rim of the Vatnajökull. At 'Gestagata' a short walkway is leading onto the glacier between the big two glacier tongues Bruarjökull and Eyjabakkajökull. They are surging glaciers, which means, instead of moving steadily they quickly advance a long distance and then do not move for years.



Here, we are standing on a really huge ice cap, all is glistering in blue and white – when will we ever experience this again? We take in this spectacular view as much as we can, however to be able to reach our planned camping spot for tonight unfortunately we have to get going.

We still drive a little involuntary detour, as we couldn't identify the correct path, but at least we were rewarded with a 360 degree view on the landscape. Part of a glacier even looks like a piece of Tiramisu dusted with chocolate powder.



Finally we reach the Karahnjúkar dam, one of the biggest hydro power plants of Europe. The dam is 57km² wide, the main dam is 700 m long and 198 m high. The two rivers Jökulsa a Bru and Jökulsa i Fljotsdal are dammed up into three reservoirs, from there the water goes through a tunnel which is 53 km long with a diameter of about 7,5 m to the plant. This is one of the biggest man made constructions of Iceland and controversial, too.



From the dam it is not far anymore until Laugavellir and we reach our planned camping spot with the last rays of daylight. The main attraction here is a warm waterfall and an old farmers hut. It is too late and dark for both, but we are compensating this with a banana pancake dessert.



22.9.2015 Laugavellir



The next morning we get a better view of the farmers hut. 1900 a farmers family settled here, but on 28th April 1906 they lost almost all their sheep in a huge blizzard. The farmer committed suicide and left his family behind... What a tragic story.

How could you possibly better start a day? A hot pot including a warm shower in sunshine and totally undisturbed. We can't get enough and aim to break the world record in soaking-in-warm-water. After more than two hours frolicking in the hot pot we pull ourselves out of the water with a heavy heart...



After so much swimming, we are hungry as bears and have Indian Fish Curry Massala for lunch, with ,naan' bread. Honestly, we actually had the plan to go back into the hot pot after lunch for a veryverylast time... But the weather has changed for the worse, other visitors arrive, so we are reasonable and forgo a last dip.

Our sightseeing program continues and we drive to the gorge Hafrahvammagljufurum, which is just opposite from the warm waterfall. The tongue-twister gorge serves as a spillway for the Karahnjukur dam. The gorge is really impressive and with its many layers of volcanic rock certainly a gem for part time geologists.



This was indeed a perfect last day in Iceland. Tomorrow evening our ferry departs, so we decide to still drive back to Egilsstaðir today. The weather has changed; it is windy, cold and has started to rain. It is very hard to believe, that just this morning we were (half)naked in the water in perfect sunshine. We drive our very last roads on the highland, arrive quite late in Egilsstaðir, have dinner and park behind the local swimming pool to stay for the night.



23.9.2015, Egilsstaðir, Seydisfjörður

Luckily, this time the weather forecast was not correct. On our last day Iceland presents itself in the best light. Last preparations before our departures have to be done, the car has to be scrubbed clean and we need to eat up/ fuel up/ use up our last Icelandic Krona.

In the afternoon we cross over the Fjardarheidi to Seydisfjörður. Upon our arrival, the Heidi was still covered in snow. Now we can see a lake and a little dam.



In Seydisfjörður we have a last cup of coffee and enjoy the last rays of sunshine before we drive rather late to the ferry port.



Boarding is all smooth, although some cars need to get a little help to get on board. The "Norröna" departs almost on time, we had to wait a bit and the tailgate had to be opened again for a little car. Everyone was cheering when the latecomer car drove on board honking.



Now we can only hope for a quiet ferry ride to the Färöers. Byebye Island!

