

Álka course September 8th – 15th 2017 Laugarvatn Iceland

Preliminary schedule

8th September Friday

- The participants arrive at Keflavík airport at different times and take the bus to Reykjavík. Until 18:00 they can enjoy being in the centre of Reykjavík on their own.
- 18.00. We will all meet at BSÍ (Reykjavík Excursion building), the main bus station in Reykjavík (the end station of all buses from the airport) and take OUR bus to Laugarvatn.
- 20.00. Nordisk buffet (national food brought from home), introduction of participants and the programme of the week.

9th September Saturday

- 8.00 – 9.00 Breakfast at Laugarvatn Hostel
- 9.15 – Excursion. Key locations of volcanoes, lavas, soil erosion. Reykjanes peninsula and the southwest Bláfjallaleið, Kleifarvatn, Seltún, Grænavatn, Eldborg, Selvogur, Þorlákshöfn (reclamation of soil), Ölfusá, Stokkseyri, Selfoss, Alviðra, Grimsnes (Seyðishólar). Students from Denmark, Finland and the Faeroes will guide us.
- 19.00 Dinner at Laugarvatn Hostel.

10th September Sunday

- 8.00 – 9.00 Breakfast at Laugarvatn Hostel
- 9.15 -10.30. Anna Guðrún Þórhallsdóttir, professor at the Agricultural University of Iceland. Land use, effect of grazing, policy of land reclamation, controversial issues, invasive plants. Lecture and discussions.
- 11.00 – 18.30. Trip to Geysir, Gullfoss, Þjórsárdalur (which was more or less destroyed by a huge eruption in 1104. (Hjálparfoss and Gjáin) Danish students guide to Strokkur and Swedish students guide about forestry.
- 19.00. Dinner at Laugarvatn Hostel

11th September Monday

- 8.00 – 9.00 Breakfast at Laugarvatn Hostel
- 9.15 – 10. Bus to – Gunnarsholt (The land reclamation centre)
- 10- 11.30 The director, Dr. Guðmundur Halldórsson will introduce us to the place and then there will be time to look at the exhibition.
- 12. Lunch break
- 13.00 - 17 Ingibjörg Heiðarsdóttir from Hella compulsory school will show us the place where pupils have been reclaiming land and doing experiments. She will bring some teenagers with her, and perhaps more people. The Icelandic students in our

group will take part in this representation, give further information and plan some activities.

- 17: drive back to Laugarvatn
- 19.00 Dinner at Laugarvatn Hostel.
- *20: 00 – 21:00 At the hostel: A lecture and discussion. Dr. Tómas Grétar Gunnarsson, ecologist and an ornithologist, who is Director/Research Professor at the South Iceland Research Centre, University of Iceland (www.sud.hi.is) will give a talk about the state of the populations of the waders in Iceland in the light of changes in the environment.

** This timing is not definite. Tómas lives in Laugarvatn, and it will be possible to change this.*

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12th September Tuesday

- 8.00 – 9.00. Breakfast at Laugarvatn Hostel
- 9.00 – Drive to : Seljalandsfoss, Gljúfrabúi (foss), Þorvaldseyri farm, (Ólafur Eggertsson farmer), Skógafoss, Sólheimajökull. Students from Norway and Greenland will guide us.
- 19.00 Dinner – Laugarvatn Hostel.

13th September Wednesday

- 7.00 – 7.30 Breakfast at Laugarvatn Hostel
- 9.45 Heimaey. The 1973 eruption of Eldfell and the human response, 17.10 return back to Laugarvatn. Swedish students guide about forestry in Laugarvatn
- 19.00 Festival dinner/ entertaining /singing /dancing.

14th September Thursday

- 8.00 – 9.00 Breakfast at Laugarvatn Hostel
- 9.00 – 11.00. Round-up, what did we learn?
- Travel to Reykjavík through Þingvellir. Accommodation in Reykjavík Hostel in Laugardalur

15. September Friday

- Breakfast at Reykjavík Hostel
- Departure home at different times

Most days we will bring packed lunches from Laugarvatn hostel.