

Worldwide Friends - Veraldarvinir

Centers 2021

Brú - Sustainable center

Location

Worldwide Friends is opening an environmental and sustainable centre near the crossroads to the West, South and North of Iceland. The centre called BRÚ is in the area of Hrútafjörður, a 36 km long fjord in Hunathing vestra. In the neighbourhood you can find a lot of pure and unspoiled nature, beaches full of driftwood, Snæfellsnes peninsula, glaciers in the highlands, waterfalls, strong rivers, canyons and craters.



Rainbow above the house in Brú

The purpose of the centre is to protect the nature in the area and to raise the awareness of sustainability among the locals and the visitors which are coming to the area.

Volunteering

Volunteering in this location implies different kinds of tasks. Some days volunteers will focus on renovation, painting, cleaning and fixing things around and inside



River next to the house in Brú

the upcoming self-sustainable centre. They will also do some artwork, for example paintings and sculptures made of driftwood.



Other days volunteers will clean the coastline and/or plant trees in the area. Location of this house is important as a base for cleaning the northwest coastline of Iceland. It is becoming increasingly common for

marine waste from North America and Europe to hitch a ride on the Gulf Stream before washing up on Arctic shores. Ocean currents along Strandir in West Fjords also make this area a hotspot for trash and driftwood from Russia.



Accommodation

The house is more than 1.000 m² but only half of the house is renovated. Brú has a current capacity to accommodate 21 volunteers. It has 8 double rooms, 1 single room, 1 quadruple room, 2 toilets, 2 showers, fully equipped kitchen, laundry room with washing and drying machine, workshops area, living and dining room. Wireless internet access is provided free of charge.



On the following [link](#) you can see video tour of the house and ongoing process of renovation.



Free time and sightseeing

In the neighbourhood volunteers can enjoy pure and unspoiled nature, hiking paths and find a waterfall. Due to its isolated location, Brú is very good location for watching northern lights.



Grabrok crater which volunteers visit on the way to Brú



Glanni waterfall which volunteers visit on the way to Brú

Worldwide Friends will also organise additional excursions for interested volunteers:

Excursion #1 - Akureyri

Akureyri is the second largest urban area outside the capital area of Reykjavík and called Capital of the North. It is the center of trade and services in northern Iceland.



In the city volunteers will have chance to go on a whale watching tour. It is a 3 hour sightseeing tour that takes you into Eyjafjörður where you can enjoy in the sights of the fjord under the commentary of guide. The guide will also teach volunteers about the whales and nature in the surrounding area.



Excursion #2 - Hraunfossar and Troll Village

During this excursion volunteers will visit four locations:

- 1) Fossatun and Troll village - The Troll Trail is a short walk marked by signs with information, pictures of trolls and troll statues. Set in a gorgeous natural surrounding and offers a magnificent view over the Borgarfjörður-area and Troll Falls. Visitors can play many outdoor troll games such as Troll-golf, Troll-kick, Troll-grip, etc.
- 2) Hraunfossar - A series of waterfalls streaming over a distance of about 900 metres. The water is actually streaming through rivulets in the Hallmundarhraun lava field.
- 3) Barnafossar - Children's Waterfall
- 4) Deildartunguhver - It is Europe's most powerful hot spring. It provides 180 l/sec of 100°C hot water. Most of the water used for central heating in the towns of Borgarnes and Akranes is taken from Deildartunguhver.



Hraunfossar



Troll Village



Deildartunguhver



Barnafossar

Hveragerði – Health and environment

Location

Hveragerði is a small town of about 1,700 inhabitants that lies some 45 km east of Reykjavík. This friendly little community sits on top of a highly active geothermal field, which provides heat for hundreds of greenhouses where fruit, flowers and vegetables are produced throughout the year.

The name Hveragerði means 'hot springs garden.' Geothermal energy is Hveragerði's lifeblood, and you probably won't find such a natural wonder in the middle of a populated area anywhere else in the world. Nearby you will find an even more geothermally active site: Gufudalur, the lovely 'Steam Valley' behind the town. This whole valley is full of hot springs, geysers, mud pots, fumaroles and steaming vents.



Volunteering

The volunteers working and living in Hveragerði have the opportunity to help the non-profit organization NLFÍ - Rehabilitation and Health Clinic, which is part of the Natural Health Association of Iceland.



Specifically, the volunteers play an important role in the horticultural and environmental department. Food is considered a part of the treatment and the Clinic was one of the first places in Iceland to offer organically grown vegetables. Every year approximately 2,000 patients and other guests enjoy their diverse rehabilitation programs. The clinic has earned a solid reputation, both in Iceland and internationally, since its foundation in 1955. It is one of the two most important rehabilitation clinics in Iceland.

Volunteers help with growing tomatoes, cucumbers and making tea made of Icelandic herbs in the greenhouses owned by the Natural Health Association, and also do some environmental work around the property.



Accommodation

Worldwide Friends volunteers will be staying in a fully equipped house consisting of several single and double bedrooms, living room, laundry room with washing and drying machine, shared bathroom and fully equipped kitchen.

Volunteers need to bring their own sleeping bag, but beds and sheets are provided. Wireless internet access is provided free of charge.

In the house there is also many board games and books which volunteers can use.



Free time and sightseeing

Hveragerði is known for having great areas for hiking, including the hot river in Reykjadalur that is 4 kilometers away from the town. Water boiling out of dozens of hot springs in the hills trickle into one body, which is also fed with glacier and rainwater. The result is a wonderfully



warm, gentle stream. Depending on how hot you want the water to be, you can go up- or down-river for the perfect bathing temperature.

Other points of interest for spending free time in the town are:

- Geothermal swimming pool
- Outdoor basketball and football court
- Geothermal park
- LA Art Museum - Listasafn Árnésinga
- Stone and Mineral Museum
- The exhibition Quake 2008



East Iceland - Taking care of nature

Location

Stöðvarfjörður is a small fishing village in the Austurland region in eastern Iceland. The town has about 190 inhabitants and is surrounded by hills and fjords. Fishing used to be the main source of income for the inhabitants, and the harbour is still in use.



Volunteering

In the east of Iceland volunteers devote their time to workshops, beach cleanups, collecting seeds from various trees, planting trees, cutting lupins, and looking for rocks. All the activities depend on the weather and what is needed at that time of the year.



Workshop in the living room



Cutting lupins



Picking up rocks next to the fjord



Collecting seeds in Stöðvarfjörður



Accommodation

The house in Stöðvarfjörður has 9 rooms that can be shared with 3 to 6 volunteers.

The rooms are on the 1st and 3d floor. Each floor has a bathroom and toilet, on the 1st floor there are 2 additional showers. On the middle floor you can find the livingroom and a fully equipped kitchen where the intercontinental meals will be prepared by the volunteers.



The house has a garden with a little stairs that leads into the fjord, where you can take a little dip in.



The garden in the east



French volunteers made their traditional quiche for the lunch

Free time and sightseeing

Stöðvarfjörður has a swimming pool and a world famous mineral museum. Volunteers can go fishing to the harbour and use the fishing roads that are in the house.



Baking banana bread in the kitchen

If you rather stay inside you can play one of our many board games, bake some dessert or play ping pong.



Ping pong table in the house

Of course it is not all work and no fun. There is an option of visiting the french museum in the Fáskrúðsfjörður where you will learn the history of the town and have the chance to sing in a chapel!

This bay is also known for its occasional dolphins and whales.



Visiting the French museum in Fáskrúðsfjörðu

In Eskifjörður, a town 60 km away from Stöðvarfjörður, there is a great swimming pool with slides and multiple hot tubes. In this fjord there is also the option to go kayaking or to visit the cristal cave.



Visitina the chanel in the French fiord



Kayaking in Eskifjörður

We will leave from Reykjavik to the east via the South side of the Island and come back via the North side. This



Details from the cristal cave

means we will do the whole Ring road, wich is the main road of Iceland, and goes around the whole country.

In the south we will make stops along the South coast tour (waterfalls of Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss, Solheimajokull glacier and Black beach) but also glacier lagoon Jökulsárlón and Diamond beach. On the way back through the north we will stop at Hverir, Myvatn, Dimmuborgir, Godafoss and Akureyri.

What you will see on the way to the east:

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Hverir, boiling mud



Godafoss



Solheimajokull glacier

Reykjavík - The Farm

Location

Reykjavík is the capital city of Iceland, the world's northernmost capital. Nearly two-thirds of the country's population lives in the capital area. The city has a vibrant cultural and design scene, with plenty of exciting adventure tours like whale watching or scuba diving. You can visit modern museums, world-class restaurants, galleries and shops.

Accommodation

In the outskirts of Reykjavik you can find our house we call The Farm. This house is our fallout base and chances are that you would spend some time here before or at the end of your journey.

In the farm there are 2 rooms for 2 or 3 volunteers and 1 bigger room that can accommodate up to 5 volunteers. You will find a bathroom with shower, a bath, lavatory and toilet upstairs, and a toilet on the ground floor as



well. There is a greenhouse in the garden and a place for a marshmallow campfire around the back.

Because the location is outside of Reykjavik, you don't have to worry about light pollution. The view of the northern lights here is magnificent.

Free time and sightseeing



Downtown Reykjavik

The farm house is a terrific base from which to experience some of the island's breathtakingly beautiful natural wonders, such as the famous Blue Lagoon



Perlan Museum

geothermal spa, The Northern Lights or The Golden Circle; where you'll witness spouting geysers, waterfalls, rift valleys and more. Also, it is only a bus ride away from the city.

Worldwide Friends will also organize additional excursions for interested volunteers:

Excursion #1 - South coast tour

Volunteers will spend the day exploring the dramatic south of Iceland and its coastline. They will have the opportunity to discover the magnificent Solheimajokull glacier, the iconic Black beach, the gorgeous waterfalls of Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss.



Black Beach



Solheimajokull glacier



Seljalandsfoss waterfall

Along the way, volunteers will pass a variety of rivers, waterfalls, mountains, and glaciers. At the waterfall at Seljalandsfoss, volunteers can walk behind the cascades and feel the spray on your face. Skógafoss is the waterfall that will

marve you with its 60-meter drop. Further along the way volunteers will visit the black sand beach and enjoy the power of the sea. On the way back volunteers will be up close with the glacier snout of Sólheimajökull. Here they can make the first encounter with all the wonders that glaciers have to offer: amazing blue colours, shapes of ice you would never have thought to be possible and the freshest glacial water to be found anywhere on the planet.



Skógafoss waterfall

Exkursion #2 - The Golden Circle

The Golden Circle consists of three equally stunning locations in southwest Iceland: Thingvellir National Park, the Geysir Geothermal Area, and Gullfoss waterfall. These sites are renowned across the world and are as spectacular as they are unique. None of them is further than a two-hour drive from Reykjavik, making it possible to visit all three within a day.



The park's incredible geology comes from its location between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates, the rift valley that runs through Iceland. Iceland is the only country where this valley, the Mid Atlantic Ridge, can be seen above sea level. Nowhere is it more visible than in Thingvellir National Park. When you enter the park from Reykjavik, you will drive towards a sheer cliff that is, in fact, the corner of the North American continent. The Euroasian continent is several kilometers away, on the far side of the park, and is equally dramatic to look at once you reach it. A magma pocket formed between these plates, rising as they moved apart. This venting was responsible for creating Iceland millions of

years ago. Their continued separation is the reason that Iceland has such fascinating volcanic activity. The island is still young and remains very much in the process of formation.



In the geysir area volunteers will see Strokkur - the country's most famous geysir, shooting vast jets of boiling water from 20 metres (65 feet) up to 40 metres (130 feet) high. Don't worry about missing this incredible spectacle of nature, as Strokkur erupts every five to ten minutes; just make sure to have your camera ready.

