

Cultural Ecology

2020-2023

Erasmus trip to Iceland



As part of the Erasmus program "Cultural Ecology", Anna (10bM), Keesha (9aM), Emmelie (10bM), Ms. Körfer, Ms. Dollinger and Ms. Bubmann were allowed to fly to Iceland from September 18th to 25th, 2022. We were invited by our partner school Árskóli in Sauðárkrókur. Along with the nations of Portugal, Scotland, and Cyprus, we were 19 people making our way to the north of Iceland. After a long night flight, we arrived in Kevlavik very late – or early on Sunday. After a short taxi ride, we stayed in a hotel near the airport.

After a late breakfast on Sunday we made our way to the most northern capital of Europe, Reykjavik. There we stowed our luggage at the bus station and set out on foot to explore the city. The beautiful Hallgrímskirkja with the wonderful view from its tower, City Hall with the large and impressive map of Reykjavik, the Harpa concert hall, the Viking monument Sun Voyager, the harbor and of course fish and chips were our program.

At 5 p.m. we met the other nations at the bus station and drove northwards

together. The tension students and their greeted warmly, as we the previous contact enough see the The next day we went got to know the other short hike to the beach experience stand on a for host families, guests



increased after we got to know the host families in the evening. We were all already knew each other a little from via social media. Some were lucky Northern Lights that evening!

to school. We explored the school and participants. Together we went on a - for us as city people it was a great black beach! In the evening, a barbecue and teachers was prepared for us -

Icelanders love to barbecue in all weathers!

On Tuesday we started an art project on our topic "Cultural Ecology": Art should be made from packaging waste. The Icelandic art teacher gave us a short but informative introduction about trash art Now we should get active. We formed mixed-nation groups, we discussed and planned – in English! Many groups decided to create a lamp.

Around noon we left school and visited the museum "The Battle of Iceland". We get to know about Icelandic sagas and Viking life. Virtual reality made the history of Iceland clear to us. Then a father of an Icelandic project participant showed us the harbor, told us about the main source of income, fishing and showed us different fish and how to fillet them. After that we had dinner with our host families and around 8pm we met up with the other project participants in the leisure center. We quickly became a group and got on very well with everyone else.

On Wednesday morning we took the bus to Akureyri. South of Akureyri our first destination was Hælið, the former Icelandic sanatorium for tuberculosis. This disease also raged in Iceland, claiming many lives. The museum was interesting for us because we could draw comparisons with Covid. How bad do you think it was to be isolated from family and friends for a very long time, not knowing if you would survive this disease?





Letters were the only means of communication. Extremely painful treatment methods, which went as far as removing ribs, were practiced there. Anesthesia was still in the beginning and antibiotics had not yet been invented.

We then visited an art exhibition before heading into town. A delicious pizza buffet was waiting for us in a restaurant and then we finally went to the swimming pool. Fun fact: In Iceland, you're breaking the law if you shower in a bathing suit! Everyone must shower naked! After the first shock, however, this usually triggers a giggle. All pools are open-air pools that draw their warm water directly from the earth, so not much chlorine is added. After 2 hours of swimming, sliding and relaxing, we set out to explore Akureyri ourselves in groups before heading back to Sauðárkrókur in the evening.

On Thursday we finished our art project and very creative things came out of it. After lunch we drove to the swimming pool in Hofsos with the most famous infinity pool in Iceland. Around 6pm it was time to say goodbye to the Scottish girls, they had to go to the airport a day early. The rest of the participants met like every evening at the school and spent time together.

The next day it was time for us to say goodbye too. We said goodbye at school and drove 4 hours by bus to Reykjavík. Two taxis took us to our hotel in the city center. We stowed our suitcases and

made our way to "FlyOver Iceland". suspended in front of a 20-meter are taken on an exciting journey float over land, sea and ice. It was a senses. The feeling of flying and fog and smells create an Saturday was our last day in Iceland, the most of. We went on a "Golden hours. We visited the volcanic crater geothermal area around geyser erupts with a column of water, were waterfall and at the fissure that North America at Thingvellir. Icelandic, is both a historical site and where the Parliament of Iceland met centuries.



In this attraction, you are spherical screen while you across Iceland in a film. You flight experience for all special effects such as wind, unforgettable experience!

which we of course made Circle Tour" that lasted 8 Kerið, were in the Strokkur, which regularly at the impressive Gullfoss separates Europe from Þingvellir, as it is spelled in a national park. This is from the 10th to the 18th

In the evening we went back to the that we finally had to say goodbye to this wonderful country. We thought - but a violent storm was brewing, and the plane had to remain on the ground. When we arrived at the airport, many people were already preparing for an uncomfortable night. We tried to contact Lufthansa and after a lot of back and forth found out that we should look for a hotel for the night. Luckily, we found one, moved into our rooms there and, very hungry and very tired, went to a restaurant. After a short night we went back to the airport and the plane took us back to Munich, despite the persistent storm!

We really enjoyed our trip to Iceland! Iceland was exhausting, an adventure that none of us would want to miss! Thanks to Erasmus, these experiences were made possible for us. We would like to thank everyone involved in the project and hope that it can continue to be carried out. Erasmus is a unique opportunity! Everyone who has this chance should use it!

