NEWSLETTER

ICELAND

SIGGY AND HEATHER | EUROPE 2015 | WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY 2015

Reykjavik

Reykjavik in Icelandic means "Smokey Bay". It is named for the steam that pours from the many hot springs that exist in the area. It really only started to grow in the 18th century when woollen mills were set up to modernise the economy. It became the capital when Iceland received it's independence from Denmark in 1944.

We headed off this morning to check out the central area. Our immediate impressions are of a modern city with fairly edgy design. It is quite eclectic - extremely modern buildings sit beside early 20th century corrugated iron buildings. Pastel colours dominate. We walked around and enjoyed the atmosphere of the tourist strip. It was quite busy and despite being bracing it was not uncomfortable. We went to a few tourist info centres and picked up a lot of literature. After getting some food supplies (and being horrified at the prices) we went home for a relax. At

The Last Leg

We have two weeks in Iceland. Two days in a house in the capital and then bed & breakfasts around the island. We were booked to come here in 2011 but the volcanic eruption prevented that.

It is thought that Irish people settled in Iceland around the year 700 but fled when Vikings (Norwegians) came in 871 AD. These people went on to settle the island.

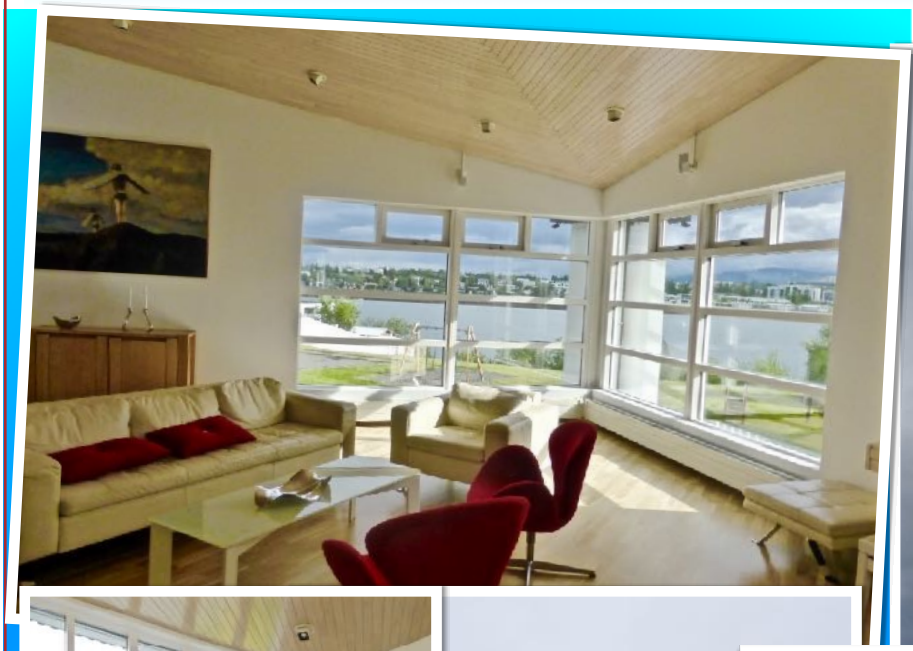
The country is slightly larger than Tasmania and has a population of 320,000. By our standards of course, it is tiny but it is incredibly interesting with all of its volcanic activity. The midnight drive from the airport last night was a little surreal and beautifully warm (our seats were heated!!). Despite the late hour there was heaps of light and we drove through barren country that had beautiful patches of purple wild flowers. We have hired a small four wheel drive so that we are can drive off the beaten track if we choose to do so. We drove about 50kms from the airport to our house-swap home in the northern suburbs of Reykjavik. What a lovely surprise. It looks pretty bland from the outside but it is extremely well appointed and modern inside and has a great view

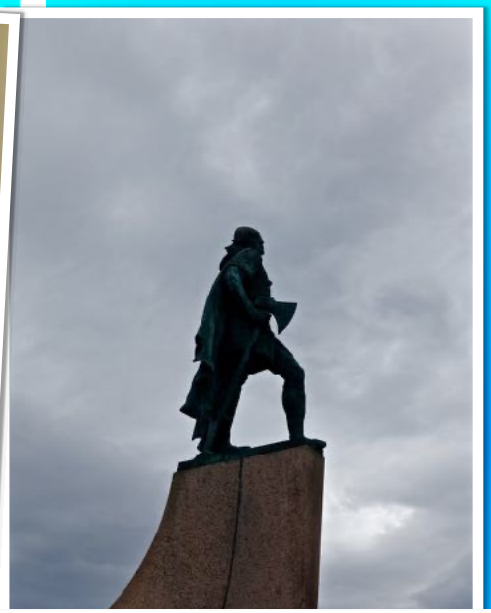
REAR VIEW Heather liked the look of these guys - so handsome and sporty looking in their blue and white track suits. Turns out they are the Swedish

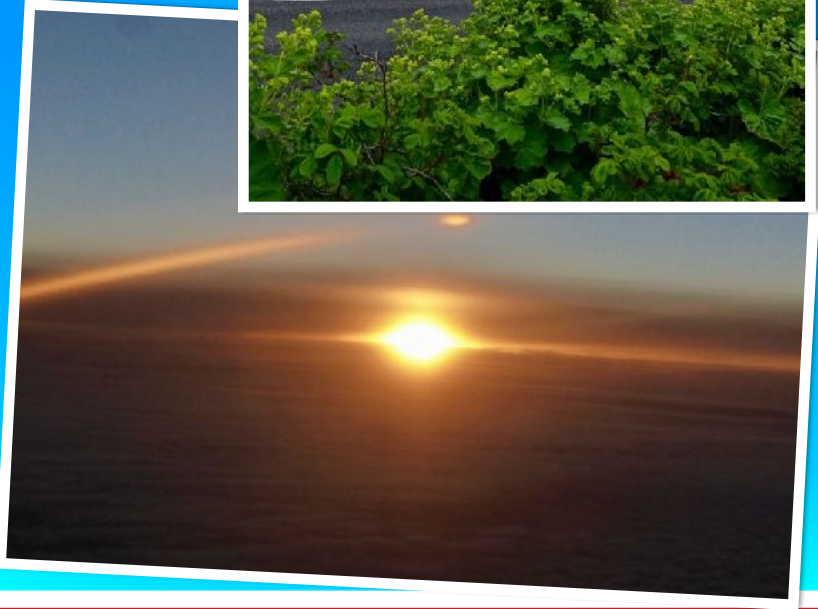
OUCH The high cost of living in Iceland is something we have to get used to. 100 Icelandic krona is equivalent to $1AUS. This (large) jar of nuts is $48!!

PAINTER The van looks like it has never had a wash and is smeared with paint. Hate to think what the quality of his work is like.

Land of Ice







PHOTOS