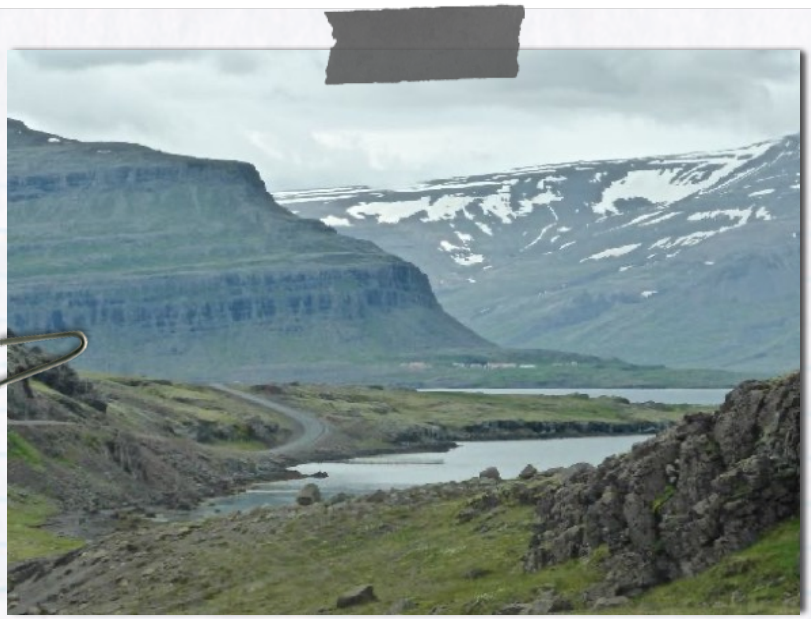
ICELAND



East Fjords

We drove on and around an area called the East Fjords. The scenery is quite different to the glacial south coast. Here there are incredibly steep sided mountains often covered in scree. At one point we were reminded of Welsh slag heaps. For a lot of the time the winds were incredibly fierce and the sea was pounding the shore. We decided to save time by taking a short cut inland via a gravel road. What a fabulous drive. Up and up we climbed. Pockets of snow and rivulets of water were everywhere. The road surface was good and the scenery was awe inspiring. Then we started the section of the journey across the last peninsular. Again we climbed steadily, this time on bitumen, until we hit dense fog. It was so thick that it required immense concentration. Each side of the road dropped away steeply. When we emerged safely from this we found the little town of

North East

Today was meant to be about the destination - not so much the journey. We had booked into a "wilderness lodge" way out on a peninsular on the north -east coast. We had intended to arrive early and enjoy this unique location. The best laid plans come amiss sometimes.

We started off late because we met a lovely Australian couple at our accommodation and kept chatting. Then soon after we started out we came upon a walk too nice to pass up. It was out over fields, beside a glacial stream that lead up to the snout of a glacier. We took off over the green, moss covered hillside and enjoyed the chilly morning. After about half an hour we realised that we did not really have enough time to reach the glacier and headed back. On we went to stock up on food. We found a supermarket and stood gobsmacked by the view of four glaciers from the entrance foyer. We prepared our lunch standing in the freezing cold beside our car. The word hyperthermia was mentioned. All we could do was laugh. Here we were in Iceland, in 4 degrees,

COOL No need for an esky in Iceland. Bit worried about the blue and red icicle though. Note too that the rest sign has a dangerously leaning tree and the guy on the mountain seems to be throwing a

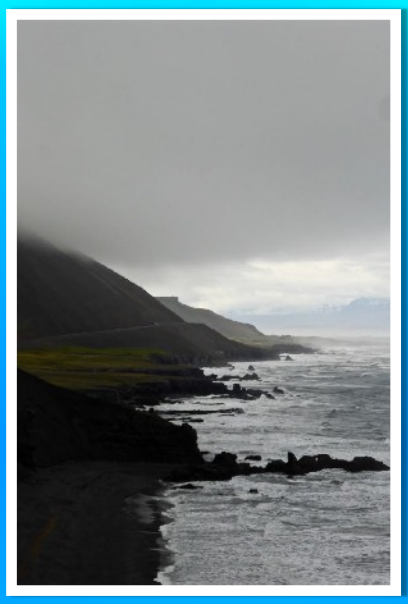
ROOMS WITH A VIEW Where else would you have a glacier in your back yard.

THE WALL 5m high steel wall holding back scree from sliding down the steep hill and cutting off the road. We kept cramming our necks to look up just in

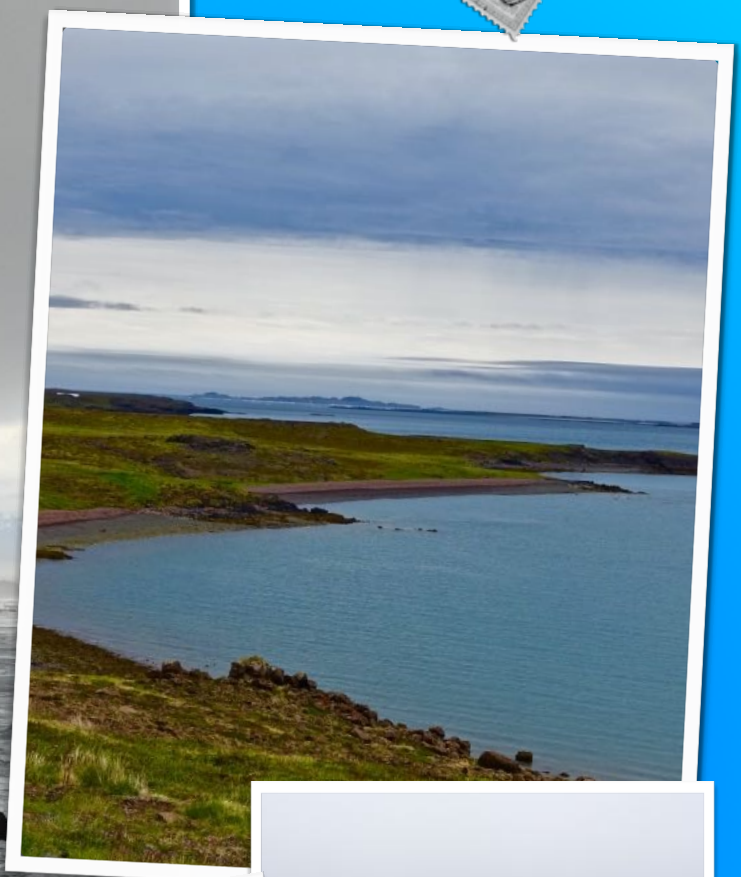
Skalanes Wilderness Lodge

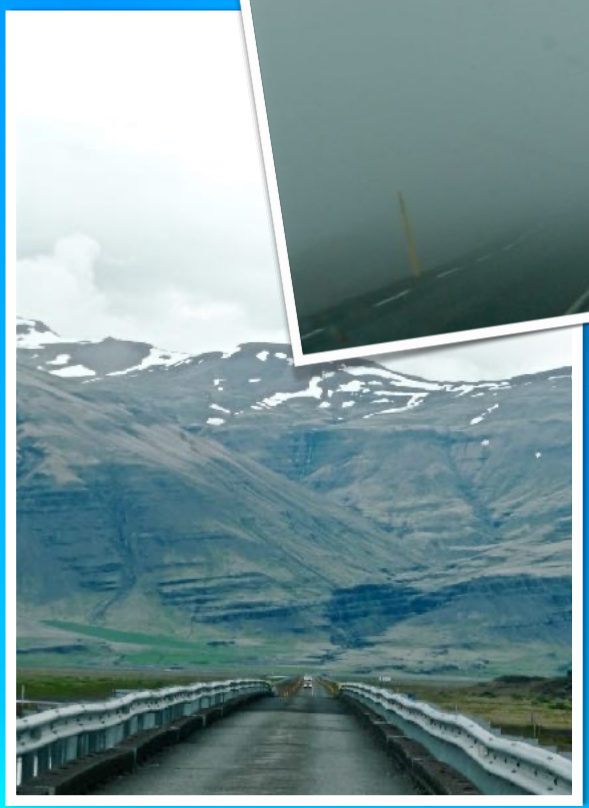
We were told to take the gravel road out of town and that we would have to ford a creek. As it turned out the creek crossing was closed so we had the option to pay 67euro to be picked up at the crossing or to walk the 4kms in. We obviously decided to do the latter. We grabbed clean undies, socks and our computer equipment (all the essentials) and off we trotted. What a beautiful place. We walked over moss covered rocks, three wooden foot bridges over rushing streams, through masses of lupins (the purple wild flowers) and passed by a distant herd of reindeer. Massive cliffs across the water were shrouded in clouds. We could occasionally spy some snow capped peaks. Hopefully we will be able to see them tomorrow.

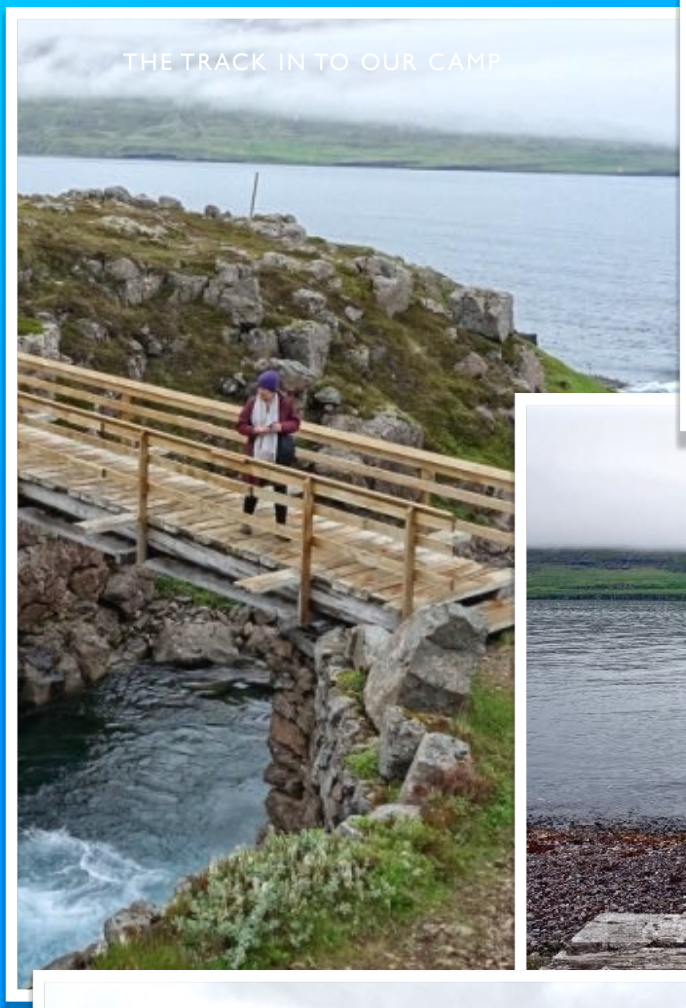
Upon arrival we were greeted by the very happy, chatty staff and told all about the property. Apart from running the lodge, the owners collect down from the "eider" ducks. Yes, they make eider downs! Anyway, we had a great meal (it has probably cost us a fortune) and chatted with the other guests - an extended family of Americans. One of them owns "Nitro Circus". He has given us his details so that next time the show is in Brisbane we can get the

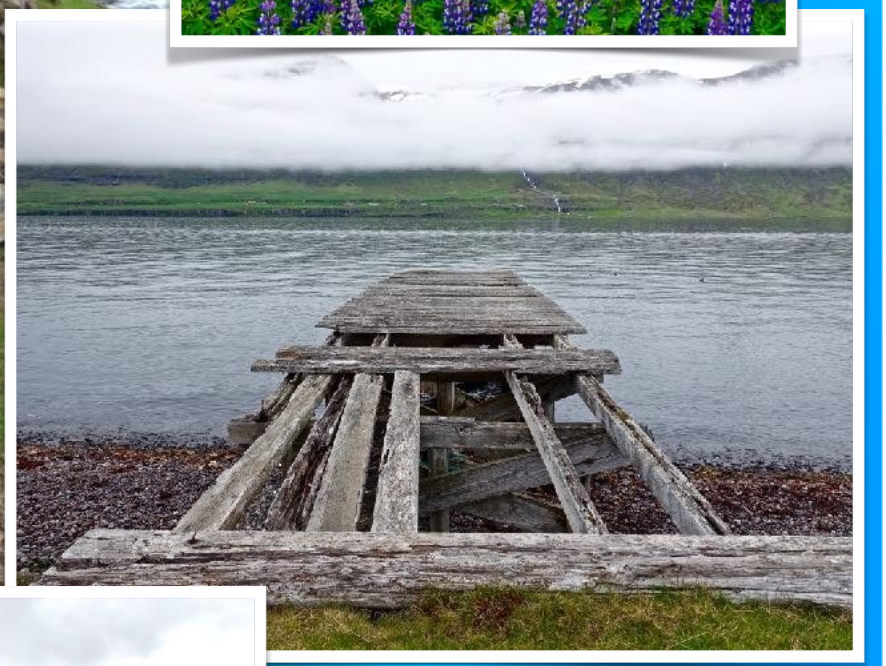


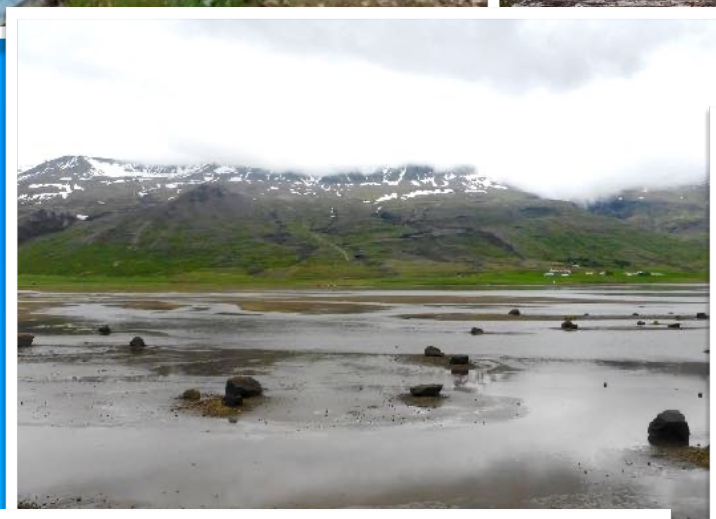
PHOTOS






THE TRACK IN TO OUR CAMP






MONUMENT COMMEMORATING
100YRS PHONE LINK BETWEEN
ICELAND AND SCOTLAND