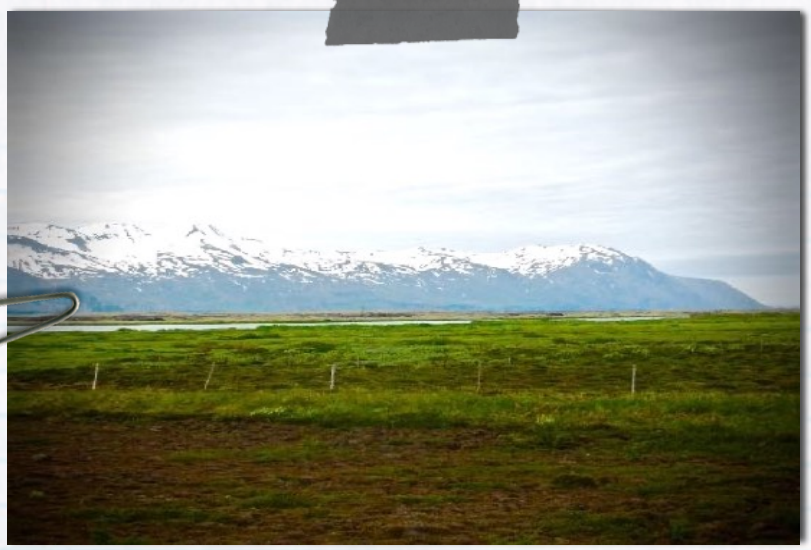
ICELAND



Surviving Adversity

The Cultural Museum in Husavik made us reflect on how easy we have had life in our own lifetime. No volcano eruptions or heavy snow or famines to cope with. Not so these Icelanders. Great when the weather is warm but when the biting cold sets in how did they ever cope. The museum told the story of when the first matches to start a fire were introduced, how the population used whatever meagre resources they had available to make do, and how Iceland became the first country to embrace true cooperation in politics, religion and economics. These traits have endured to this very day.

It is a very humbling experience when you walk on lava, see steam and gas escaping the earth around you, when you see houses built into the ground to escape the cold, when you imagine having to survive without mechanical transport or machinery and yet here we are enjoying Iceland - so very modern,

Exceeding Our Expectations

Our travels today took us from Husavik to Kigali located on the flood plain to the south. We can see high mountain ridges either side of us from our bedroom. Its been a short but exhilarating day.

After a short visit to the very interesting cultural museum in Husavik we did a brief shop and took more photos of the harbour. Unlike yesterday evening the weather had improved and the clouds that covered the distant snowy peninsular had lifted. Its amazing how this sight lifts the spirits. The temperature was still a chilly 8 degrees but hey, that is 4 degrees warmer than yesterday. Our drive followed the glacial valley floor. We stopped briefly for lunch at a small steaming lake on the side of the road. I had a fleeting thought about having a swim but realised that getting out of the hot water into the cold air would be tricky.

Our next stop was the gorgeous waterfall Godafoss. We spent time admiring the thunderous water from both sides of the river. The unmade road on the flood plain to our accommodation for the night was

TWO WHEEL TOURING I can't believe the number of people touring Iceland on bikes or on foot. On a sunny day it might be great but on a freezing windy day

AVAN? We have not seen any AVan's in all our travels around Europe over all these years. We saw 3 in Iceland. Interesting.

TOILET? I waited crosslegged outside the room wondering what the sign said. Impatient Heather could not wait any longer and came out looking very relieved. We checked on the internet later - the

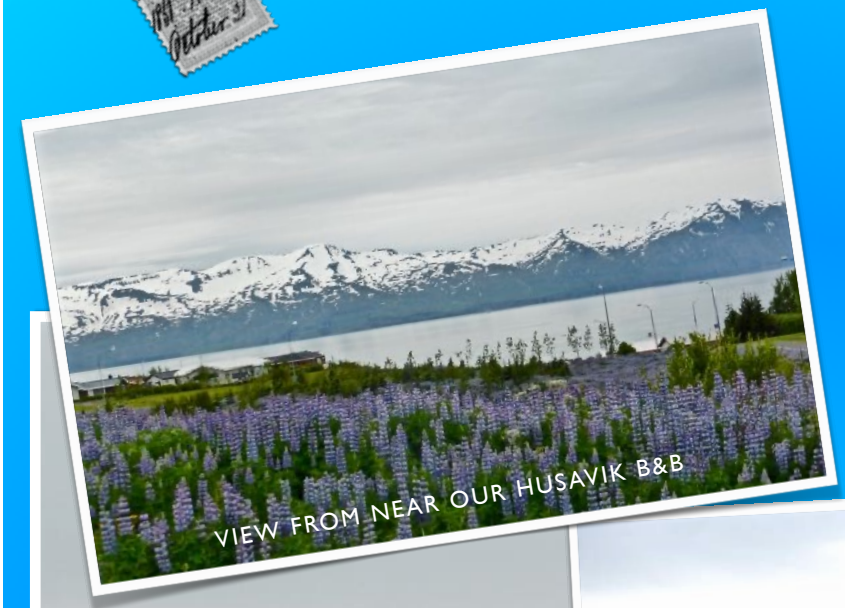
MERMAN In the early days the sea lion was mistaken for a merman. This saying must have been thought up by a woman.

POOR PUFFIN Every part of the bird was used. Their meat was salted or dried, the fat that melted off the boiled birds was used as spread on bread while heads and wings were burned as fuel. Their eggs were also

FOXY THING Heather was interested to know that arctic foxes change their coat colour to snow white in the winter without having to go to the hairdresser.

The North

PHOTOS



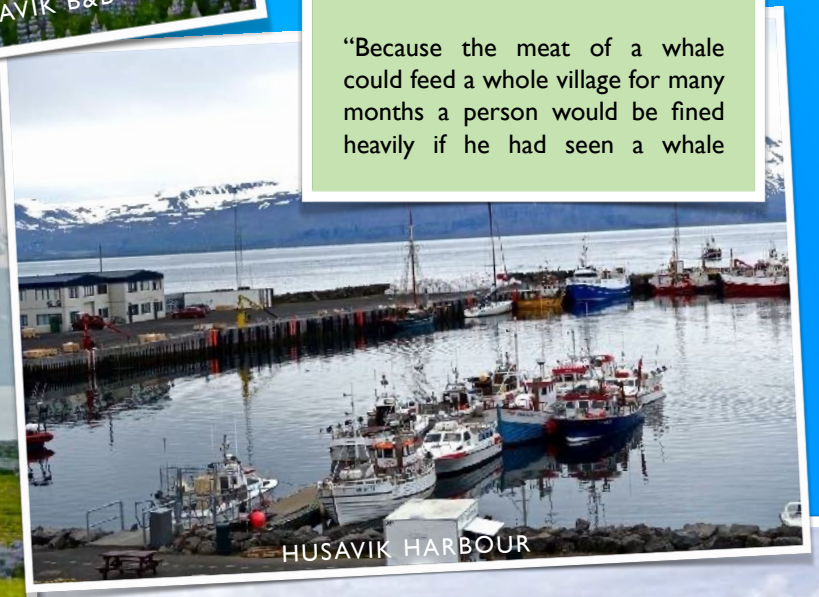
VIEW FROM NEAR OUR HUSAVIK B&B

"Nature is a generous provider when the sun shines and food is abundant. But she can also strike fear in the human heart at times of hardship and famine or when volcanoes erupt or ravenous polar bears wander ashore."

"Moss (a form of lichen) was an important part of the diet. A porridge of Iceland moss was eaten morning and evening with skyr (milk curd)."

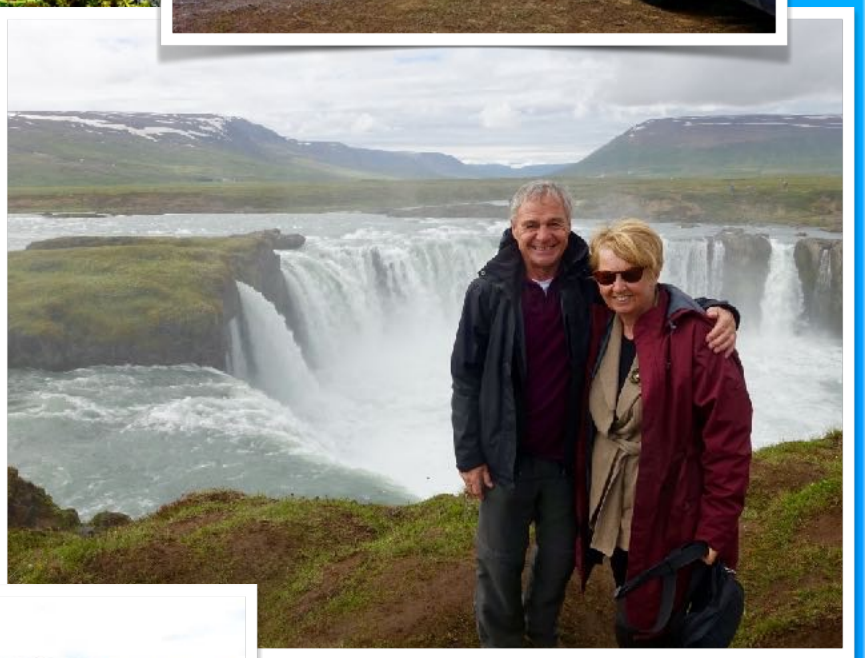
"Because the meat of a whale could feed a whole village for many months a person would be fined heavily if he had seen a whale

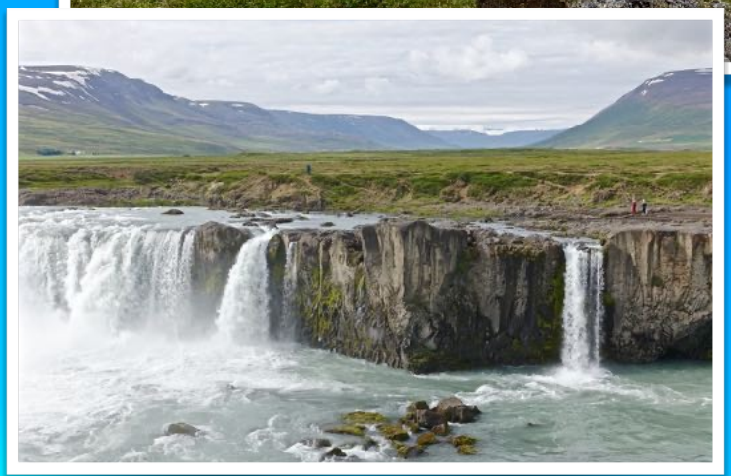
LITTLE HOUSE ON THE FIORD

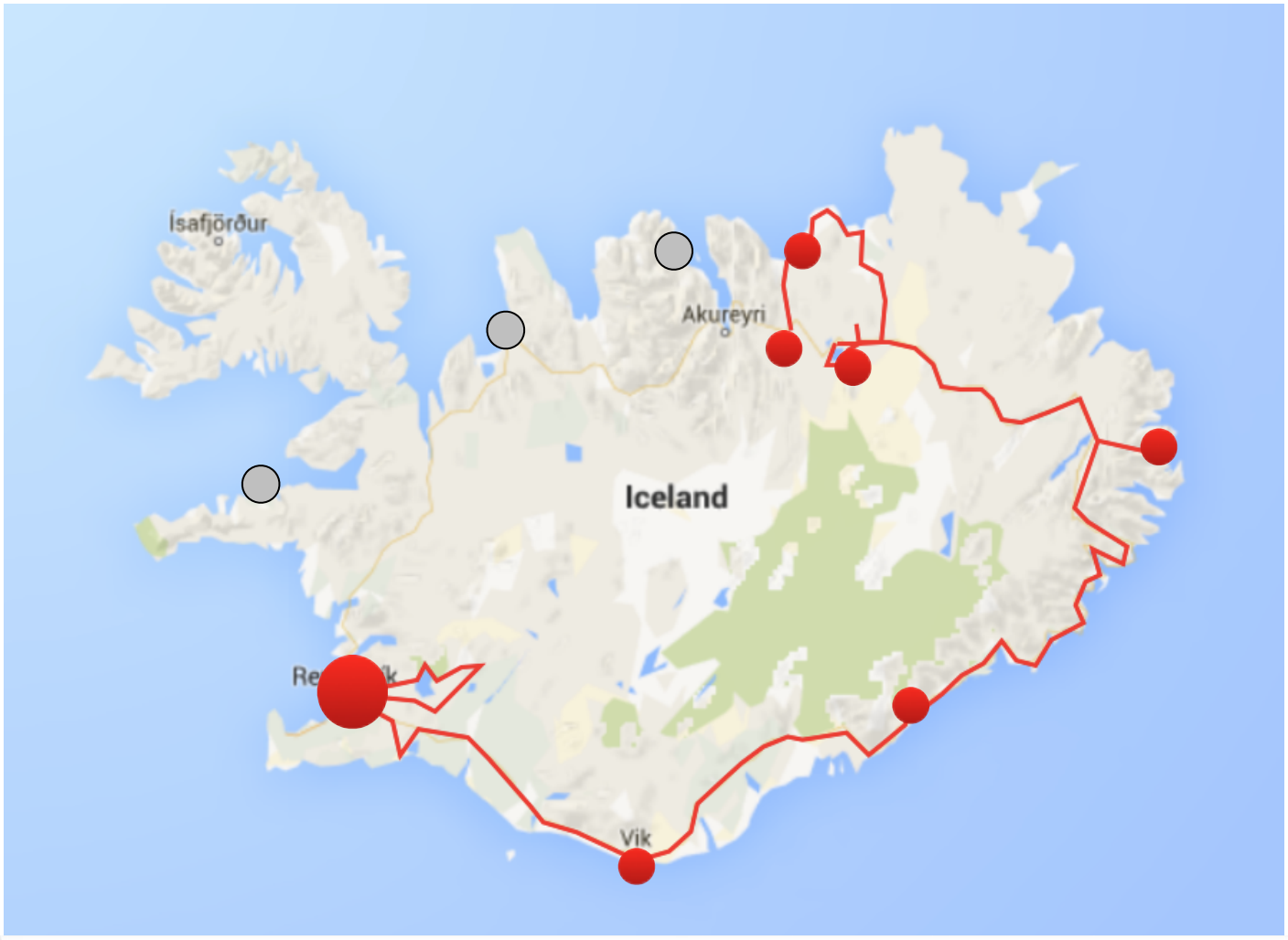


HUSAVIK HARBOUR

GODAFOSS - WATERFALL OF THE GODS



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Akureyri
Iceland
Vik