



A Visit to Iceland

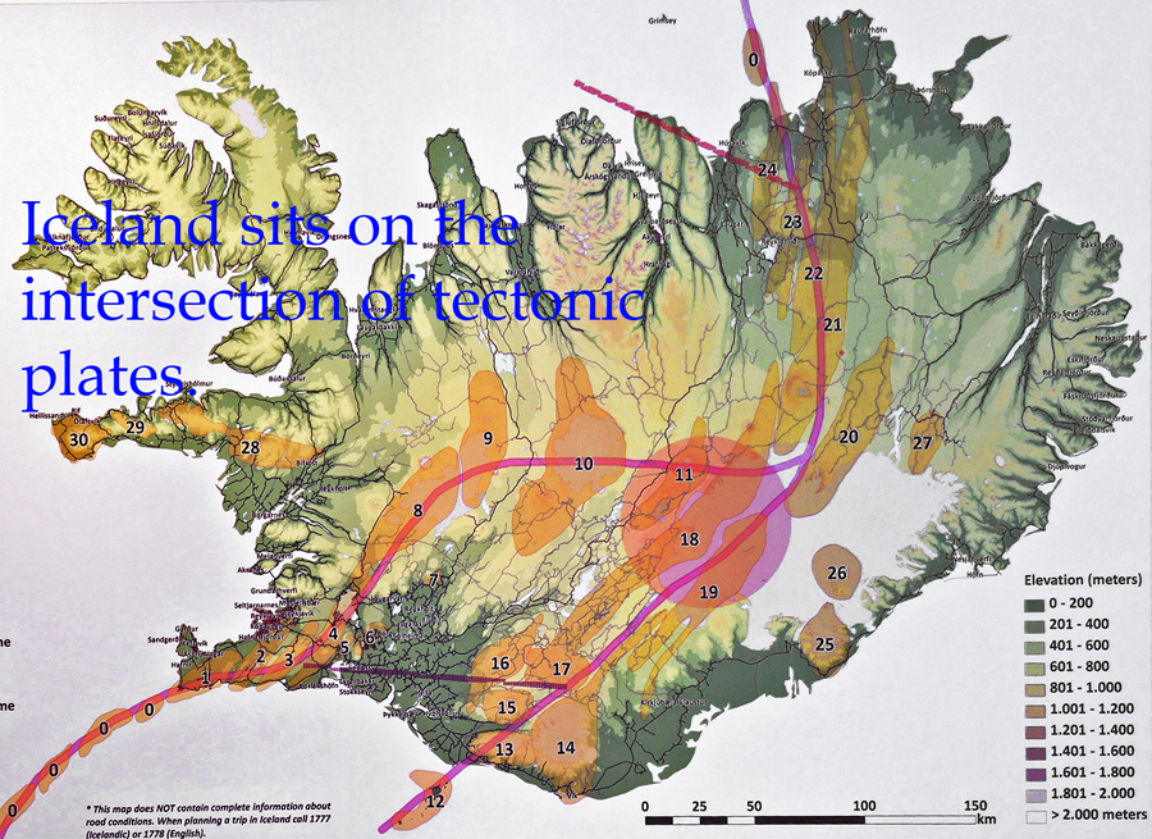


where, on the day before
the official celebration of
the start of summer
(April 25) we awoke
to this....

124.5




Iceland sits on the intersection of tectonic plates



* This map does NOT contain complete information about road conditions. When planning a trip in Iceland call 1777 (Icelandic) or 1778 (English).



Volcanic eruptions are frequent (not during our visit though...) and...

A wide, flat, brownish-grey geothermal field, likely a geyser basin, with a stone marker in the foreground. The stone is light brown and has the word "GEYSIR" engraved on it. In the background, several people are standing on a slightly elevated area, observing the landscape. The terrain is cracked and textured, typical of a geothermal area. The sky is blue with some light clouds, and the background shows a line of trees and hills under a clear sky.

GEYSIR

Iceland is home to the “original” geyser, now dormant but next to a very active one.

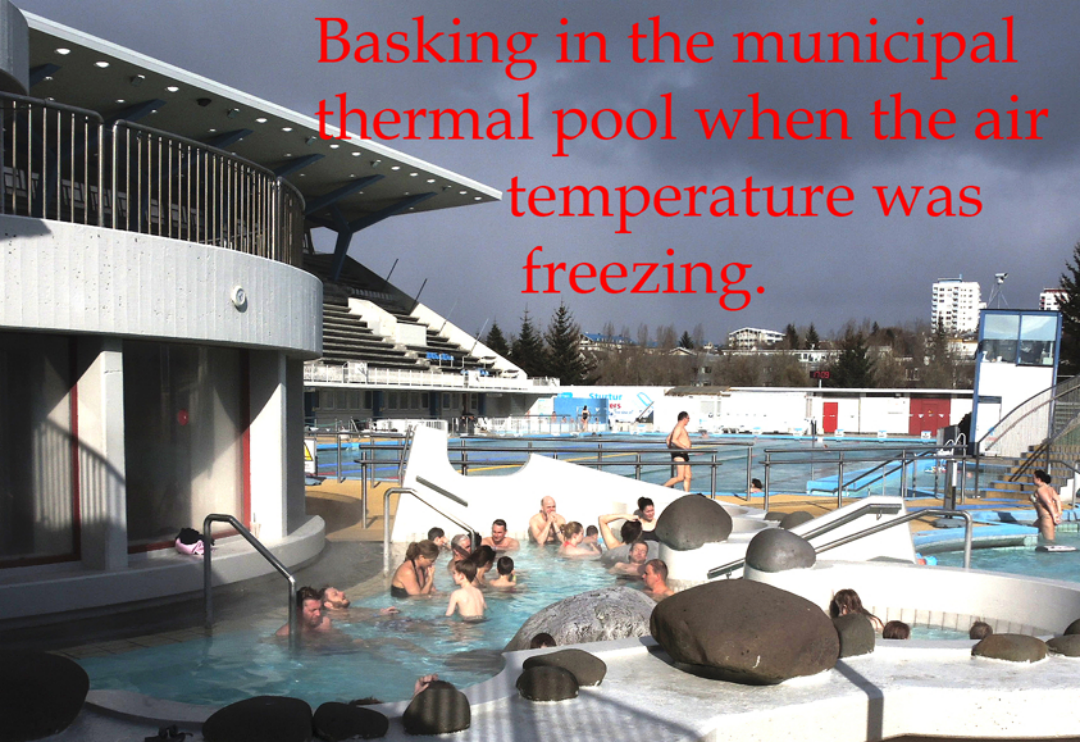
The eruption under the Eyjafjallajökull glacier in 2010 disrupted international air travel and sent a wall of water out through the fissures seen here on the right.



Most of Iceland's energy needs are met by thermal sources, here the technologically advanced Hellisheidi power station that supplies over 40% of Reykjavik's heat and electricity.



Basking in the municipal thermal pool when the air temperature was freezing.



Reykjavik







The National Museum

Its most famous object, an early
medieval votive figure: pagan
or Christian?

From Viking age burials





Scrap silver and a hoard mainly of English coins (from the Danegeld?)



A very early
pair of brooches
and a necklace
decorated with
Arab dirhams



Reconstruction of traditional warp-weighted loom. Woolen cloth was a major early export.



Foundations of a Viking long house,
dated to ca. 870 CE

Wood was scarce.
Walls were built
of sod, here in a
reconstruction of an
early church at Skalholt,
site of Iceland's first bishopric.





The president's residence
at historic Bessastadir



Hikes in and
around Reykjavik









Along the
waterfront
in Reykjavik

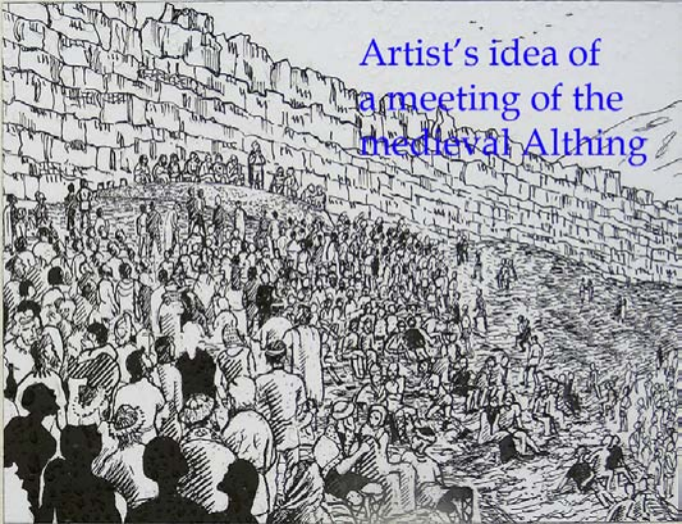




Thingvellir: the rift valley
where the continental plates
meet and the oldest
“parliament” in Europe
met: the cradle of the
Icelandic nation.



Artist's idea of
a meeting of the
medieval Althing



Meeting at Thingvellir to
proclaim Iceland's
independence
in 1944







Gulfoss,
a national symbol



Skogafoss



