

Meanwhile, from the infling crew (Leon, Olivia, Arne) and permanent resident Jeanne ...

A STORY OF STEAM, FIRE AND ICE

Booking our flights to Greenland proved to be an adventure on its own. Since the Greenland government restricted the amount of visitors to maximum 30 (!) pax per week (i.e. one flight per week, operated by Air Greenland from Reykjavik to Nuuk) and excepted only PCR-tests taken in a Nordic country, we had to immediately reschedule our flights. Covid is a bitch!

Itinerary: testing in Antwerp, train to Schiphol, flight to Reykjavik (3 days stay in order to get a Nordic test booked), testing in Reykjavik, flight to Nuuk.

Entering Iceland happened under strict but swift covid-document checks.

The events, sights and experiences thereafter were unforgettable.

Day 1



Hop on the bus for the Golden Circle Tour over stunning moonlike landscapes, dotted with steaming thermal holes offering incredible views via the Selfoss volcano crater, Gullfoss waterfalls, Geysir, the One and Only, 30 meters high up spewing steam geyser that gave his name to all the others and Pingvellir National Park, the oldest 'parliament' in the world. Our guide Tommi told us about a volcano tour without much use because it appeared to

be too cloudy. Little did we know what would overcome us next day!

Day 2

PCR-test at 08.15 at the Sudurlandsbraut. Back out at 08.16! A stroll via the local Boomsesteenweg passing the national football Stadium, that would make the news one day later with a Me Too-harassment scandal as a result from which the entire Icelandic football-board had to step down. We didn't care taking a dip in the geothermal heated local swimming pool Sundhollin, with hot (38 and 40*c), sauna, steam room, ice bath and outside pool. Although or just because it was drizzling and merely 13*c outside, it felt great.

Off to the top of the Hallgrímskirkja to get a view over Reykjavik (not larger than Lier), feeding on a must do Fish & Chips in the harbour and experience a 5-D Fly Over Iceland. In the mean time we got our negative test results.



Then, lucky coincidence took our side. Olivia and Arne met with friends from Belgium during happy hour (very recommended in a town where a beer 'Viking' costs 9 euro), also on a sailing trip to Greenland. The friends showed amazing pictures of a trip to an active volcano, taken the night before. By accident, the trip was guided by an expat Belgian, photographer and nature guide Joeri. We got his number, phoned him up at 21.00 and 40 minutes later were on our way with Joeri to the ragadalsfjall for a memorable night.



The volcano had started erupting five months earlier and had grown from a hole in the valley to a 300 meter high mountain. For Joeri, it was his 31st visit and one of the best. One hour drive away from Reykjavik you could see the sky glow from far away. Then two hours hike on the mountain, surrounded by fellow admirers all in festival, excitement modus.



The scenery and atmosphere was beyond words. Finally, the full frontal view on a very active, 50 meters high erupting new volcano with streams of lava as far as you could see. We could reach the lavastream up to 1 meter. Mesmerizing and never to forget.

We got back at 04 am, very tired and happy. The Fragadalsfjall is the first to erupt after the Eyjafjallajokull and



may be continuing for months causing a big problem once the lava will reach the ocean.



Day 3

Goodbye Iceland, up to Greenland Nuuk in a 40 seater propellor plane. Except, after a beautiful flight over icebergs, icecubes, icemass, iced sea, .. we did not land in Nuuk but in the very scenic town of Illulisat, up north in Disko Bay, because of bad weather conditions.



What did we care 😊. Again lucky coincidence or coincided luck!



Illulissat (4.500 inhabitants) is a starting point for arctic cruises and outbound adventurers. The bay and harbour was packed with ice. Fishing boats had to find their way through the ice.

All this to be watched from the restaurant terrace on the fifth floor from our newly (June 2021) opened Illulissat hotel. A great and unexpected stop-over.



Thank you Air Greenland. Unforgettable. Jan's prepared halibut on Monara had to wait another day.

