

# Geography Trip to Iceland 2009

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009, Years 10 and 11 geography students left Heathrow to travel to Reykjavik in Iceland. After a two and a half hour flight, we landed in Reykjavik and made our way to the Blue Lagoon; a geothermal spa, which is heated to 40° Celsius by the heat from under the earth's crust.



*The Blue Lagoon*



*Stokkur Geyser*

The next day we visited the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, which is the boundary between the two tectonic plates: the Eurasian Plate and the North American Plate. We walked between these diverging plates, which move apart approximately 2.5 cm per year.

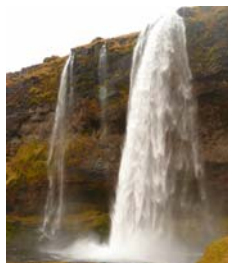
The next highlight was visiting Stokkur Geyser. We had to wait a short time to see it go off, but it was worth it! Stokkur is one of the smaller geysers in the world, normally only reaching 25 metres.

Finally, our last visit for Friday was Gullfoss (the golden waterfall), located in the canyon of Hvítá river in southwest Iceland. This waterfall is Iceland's most famous waterfall and by far the most powerful in Europe.

We spent sunrise on Saturday morning at the top of Stora-Dimon volcano. After a steep 78 metre climb, we were rewarded with a spectacular view of the floodplains and the Mordalsjokkull icecap with its amazing glaciers.



*Stora-Dimon Volcano*



*Seljalandsfoss Waterfall*

We then visited Seljalandsfoss waterfall, another of Iceland's most famous waterfalls. We were even able to walk behind the 40 metre high waterfall. After this, we went to the Skógafoss waterfall. Skógafoss is one of the biggest waterfalls of the country with a width of 25 metres and a of 60 metres. Due to the amount of spray the waterfall consistently produces, a rainbow is normally visible on sunny days.



*Seljalandsfoss Waterfall*

We followed this waterfall to its source – Solheimajökull, the “Black Glacier” on Myrdalsjökull and it was here we got to learn about the process of glaciation. It gets its name from the colour of the rock underneath the glacier.



*Gígjökull Glacier*

On Sunday, our final day, we visited the Hellisheidi geothermal power station to learn about the use of heat from underground to provide energy. We then spent the rest of the day in Reykjavik, Iceland's capital city, where we visited Hallgrímskirkja cathedral.

Finally, after a long day, we boarded a plane back to Heathrow. It really was a memorable, once in a lifetime trip which will never be forgotten – many thanks to the geography department and the staff that helped make it a success!

