



# ASSESSING NATURAL HAZARDS in ICELAND



**A CPD  
OPPORTUNITY  
for TEACHERS**

**31 August - 02 September 2017**

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Since the Settlement Icelanders have experienced just about every natural hazard that there is: earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, glacier bursts, storms, landslides, avalanches, soil erosion, glacial advances and extremes of climate. Perhaps the most notorious of these are volcanic eruptions, especially when they hit the headlines and directly impact global tourism. Volcanic activity has been a 'natural hazard' ever since the first Vikings set foot on the island since when the pattern of colonisation and population growth has shown a close relationship with the volcanic nature of the country. The interior, while climatically challenged is also the active neo-volcanic zone within which activity tends to occur. It is sparsely populated whereas the periphery, especially the south and west, contains most of the population. A look at Iceland's demographic transition model reveals distinct peaks in the death rate, which can be directly related to volcanic activity. The eruption of Laki in 1783 had the most significant impact killing 9 – 10,000 people not by lava flows but by the resultant 'Famine Haze' that hung over the island. It is also thought to have been contributory to the French Revolution.

Not all is doom and gloom however. The landscape attracts tourism and volcanic soils have agricultural potential (though the climate may not help!). Earth heat generates energy for domestic space heating and electricity. Horticulture is made possible even though the island is not well situated for sunshine.

This visit will look at several potential natural hazards and participants will be invited to make their own assessments so as to provide a case study to use in school.

Course Director: Tony Escritt

Cost: £ 399.- \*

\*Return from Gatwick incl. all transport in Iceland, accommodation, meals and guiding. Participants should arrange their own insurance.

## ASSESSING NATURAL HAZARDS

### A Teachers' CPD Visit to Iceland – 31 Aug – 02 Sept 2017 (PROVISIONAL ITINERARY)

Timings are approximate and subject to change owing to weather and time spent at other sites.  
Figures in brackets refer to our GeoKeyCards.

Day 1	
1000	Check-in at London Gatwick
1200	Flight WW811 departs
1410	Arrive at Keflavík Airport
1500	Meet Bus and Guide
1520	Arr. Reykjanes (Mid-Atlantic Ridge; tectonics; energy potential; tourism – 'The Silver Diamond')
1615	Depart
1645	Arr. <b>Blue Lagoon</b> for a geothermal swim (tourism; energy; risk)
1800	Depart
1930	Arrive at Guesthouse Hjarðarból in Hveragerði for supper and overnight accommodation

Day 2	
0730	Breakfast at accommodation
0830	Depart for field excursions
0835	Arr. <b>Hveragerði</b> shopping centre to look at the <b>2008 earthquake</b> exhibition followed by field visit. Depart 0930
0950	Arr. <b>Alviðra (B3a)</b> to be orientated to the scale of South Iceland ( <b>landslides; changes of sea level; volcanic eruptions</b> ) Depart 1000
1030	Arr. <b>Hagavík (B6)</b> to see the effects of Man's mismanagement ( <b>soil erosion</b> ) Depart 1100
1130	Arr. <b>Thingvellir National Park (B8)</b> and World Heritage Site home to the World's first democratic parliament and where the rift valley most clearly demonstrates the idea of a <b>central graben</b> on the line of the <b>Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR)</b> . Depart 1300 (packed lunch)
1400	Arr. <b>Secret Lagoon (B14)</b> , Fluðir. Opportunity to swim/soak in natural <b>geothermal</b> waters. Depart 1500 [ <b>Site risk assessment</b> ]
1600	Arr. <b>Stóra Dímon (C4)</b> to introduce the Case Study. Depart 1630
1715	Arrive at Hótel Drangshlíð
1745	Case Study preparation
1900	Evening meal followed by plenary session
Day 3	
0700	Breakfast at the hotel
0745	Depart for field excursions
0830	Arr. <b>Múlakvísl (D9)</b> to locate the east boundary of the study area
0930	Arr. <b>Vík (D7)</b> to assess the town's location in terms of <b>volcanic eruption risk</b> . Depart 1030
1100	Arrive at <b>Thorvaldseyri (C7)</b> , the farm most affected by the 2010 <b>eruption</b> to view the exhibition and see the remarkable film. Depart 1145
1350	Arrive at Keflavík Airport to check in
1550	Flight WW814 departs
2005	Arrive at London Gatwick