ProGEO NEWS
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Hengifoss, 128 m high waterfall in Fljótsdalur, East Iceland. It cuts through Miocene bedrock with basalt lava and red interbeds. Photo: Kristján Jónasson.

Iceland geology and geoconservation

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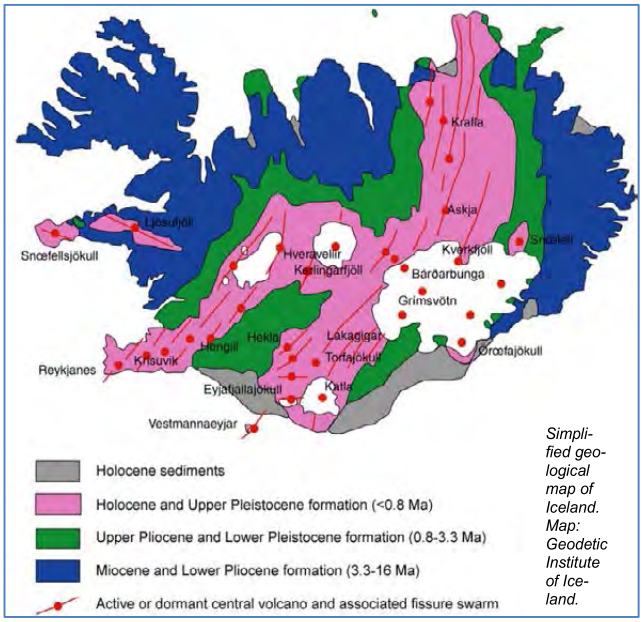
Iceland is a volcanic island in the middle of the North Atlantic. The volcanism in Iceland is caused by the interplay of two factors; the Iceland hot spot or mantle plume and the Mid-Atlantic ridge which cuts through the hot spot.

The opening of the North Atlantic began 56-61 million years ago with a massive outburst of basaltic volcanism associated with a mantle plume or hot spot, forming the North Atlantic igneous province. Basaltic areas in Greenland and Scotland, together with the Greenland-Iceland and Iceland-Faeroe submarine ridges represent the hot spot trail through the history of the North Atlantic. The Mid-Atlantic Ridge marks the boundary between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates with an average spreading rate of the plates of about 1 cm/yr in each direction. Today, volcanism in Iceland occurs both within rift zones and in off-rift flank zones where little or no spreading occurs. The interplay of the rift zones and the hot spot, which is currently centered below the northwestern part of the Vatnajökull ice sheet, results in complex and diverse volcanic activity.

Icelandic volcano-tectonics have been characterized by volcanic systems throughout the island's geological history. A volcanic system is a spatial grouping of eruption sites, including feeder dikes and possibly shallow magma chambers that usually have in common certain structural, petrographic and geochemical characteristics within the bounds of the system.



Simplified geological map of Iceland. Map: Geodetic Institute of Iceland.

Volcanic production is generally most intense around the middle of each system, where many have developed a central volcano with the concomitant production of intermediate and acid rocks. High-temperature hydrothermal activity is often connected with the central part of each system, evidenced by steaming vents and solfataras. In Iceland and on its insular shelf, about 41 volcanic systems have erupted at least once during the Holocene and Late Pleistocene, the most active being the Hekla, Katla, Askja and Krafla systems.

Iceland is, geologically speaking, a young country as the oldest outcrop found is only 16 Ma. The bedrock of Iceland has traditionally been divided into four main geological formations (see the map):

- Miocene and Lower Pliocene formation (3.3-16 Ma): This formation is characterized by layers of basalt lava with thin red interbeds (originally soil horizons). Fossil plant remains indicate much warmer climate conditions than prevail today in Iceland. Because of loading in the volcanic zones, the lava pile usually dips towards the volcanic zone which was active at each time. Where central volcanoes occur the bedrock becomes more complex with silicic rocks, hydrothermal alteration and irregular dip. Pleistocene glaciers have subsequently cut deep valleys and d fjords in t hese formations.

- Upper Pliocene and Lower Pleistocene formation (0.8-3.3 Ma): During the Pliocene the Earth's climate cooled and glaciers began to form in Iceland. Their influence gradually became more widespread and this is clearly reflected in the geological formations. In addition to basalt lavas, hyaloclastites (formed in sub-glacial eruptions) were characteristic for this period. Tillites and glaciofluvial sediments replaced the red interbeds. The landscape gradually became more eroded and deep valleys formed

Lava from the Holuhraun eruption flowing over a highland track. Photo: Kristján Jónasson.

This black lava formed in November 1981. During the Krafla fires 1975-1984 in Northeast Iceland the plate boundary extended by up to 8 m, thereby providing positive confirmation of plate tectonics. The area is very important for Icelandic and global geoheritage but conflicting interests of geoconservation and geothermal utilization have prevented conservation. Photo: Kristján Jónasson.

- Upper Pleistocene formation (0.012-0.8 Ma): During the latter part of the Ice Age, the glacial periods were longer than the interglacial periods and móberg formations (hyaloclastite, pillow lavas, and breccia) were characteristic for this time. The name móberg points to the dark brown colour of the rock. Fluvial, lacustrine and marine sediments represent the interglacials and tillites the glacial periods. In the active volcanic zones, móberg mountains (tuyas) and ridges (tindars) dominated the landscape, while the margins of the island were modified by glacial erosion.

- Holocene (<0.012 Ma): After the Ice Age, volcanic activity within the volcanic zones was characterized by lava flows. The lavas are usually minimally eroded but can be weathered and vegetated. Most Holocene sediments were deposited by glacial rivers and in some places form extensive Sandur plains when the river plain widens near to the coast. In Iceland the Holocene is divided into prehistorical and historical time, a division based on a widespread and characteristic ash layer which formed in AD 871, at about the time when the first settlements in the country were established in the late 9th century.

The Icelandic geoheritage has suffered serious decline since the settlement. For many centuries tremendous soil erosion prevailed in Iceland, due to deforestation, overgrazing and eruptive activity. During the last decades, reclamation work has reduced the erosion, but around 40% of the original soil is estimated to be lost.

Because of human activity and development many vulnerable geological features have been lost, e.g. late glacial raised beaches, glacial river channels, hot springs and geysers, high temperature geothermal areas, lava fields and scoria cones.

Valuable earth resources in Iceland are mostly confined to the volcanic zones. This applies to mineral resources, geothermal resources, hydropower and ground water. Additionally, most of the natural wonders relate to the volcanic activity. Hydroelectric and geothermal power plants, accompanied by power lines and pylons, pipelines, roads and buildings, are a current and potential pressure on geoheritage sites. Such constructions are usually located in rural areas with valuable, pristine landscape and geological landforms.

In recent years, tourism in Iceland has increased rapidly and is becoming one of the main economic sectors of the country. In 2014, nearly one million tourists visited the country, twice as many as in 2010. In recent surveys around 80% tourists mention the main reason for the visit to be Icelandic nature. Despite the dramatic increase in the number of vistiors, no strategy has been introduced by responsible agencies on how to meet this situtation with the present infrastructure and management at vulnerable areas.

It is clear that important geoheritage sites in Iceland are threatened and may be lost without effective conservation, management plans and secure financial resources for geoconservation.

The Holuhraun eruption, north of Vatnajökull, started 29th of August 2014 and ended 28th of February 2015. The eruption produced around 1,4 km^3 of lava that covered an area of over 85 km^2. Photo: Kristján Jónasson.

Information to ProGEO-members wanting to attend the ProGEO symposium in Reykjavik in September:

Accommodations in Reykjavík:
http://uk.hotels.com/search.do?resolved-location=CITY%3A698770%3AUNKNOWN%3AUNKNOWN&destination-id=698770&q-destination=Reykjavik,%20Iceland&q-localised-check-in=07%2F09%2F2015&q-localised-check-out=11%2F09%2F2015&q-rooms=1&q-room-0-adults=1&q-room-0-children=0&sort-order=PRICE
http://www.booking.com/index.en-gb.html?aid=318615;label=New_English_EN_ALL-GBIECAUS_5226333385-zrfE0CU6K_HWeoloJw%2APrQS46932911785%3Apl%3Ata%3Ap1%3Ap2%3Aac%3Aap1t1%3Aneg;sid=a8f2d9f239addb5b682a6e8f6e197cb1;dcid=4

Reykjavik Hostels:
https://affiliates.hihostels.com/search/hostels?channel_id=097026&locale=en&d=0284&country_slug=is&city_slug=0284&searched_for_name=Reykjav%C3%ADk

Flights to Iceland, Keflavík International Airport
Dohop: http://www.dohop.com/ Momondo: http://www.momondo.com/ WOW air: http://wowair.co.uk/
Icelandair: http://www.icelandair.com/

If you want to travel more around Iceland during your stay: It is comfortable and cheap to travel with buses around the country http://www.straeto.is/ Farm accommodation is all over the country and are much cheaper than hotels and more fun http://www.farmholidays.is/ The best way to plan a trip in Iceland is to look at these web sites http://www.visitreykjanes.is/, http://www.south.is/, http://www.east.is/, http://www.northiceland.is/en, http://www.westfjords.is/, http://www.west.is/. Iceland Travel will also be helpful in providing day tours in Iceland. Contact information on the registration site (under Day Tours)

….. and just for fun:

15 peculiar Icelandic phrases that leave you scratching your head
http://www.iheartreykjavik.net/2015/03/15-peculiar-icelandic-phrases/

Geoheritage journal – the first 6 years!

José Brilha jbrilha@dct.uminho.pt &
Kevin Page kevin.page@plymouth.ac.uk

The first issue of the ProGEO's international scientific journal, Geoheritage, was published at the beginning of 2009 (although the process of negotiation with the international publishers Springer had begun at end of 2005). The birth of a new scientific journal dedicated to a new subject for a relatively undefined academic community to support the publishing process was a big challenge for ProGEO.

Now with 6 years of life it is already possible to create a general profile of the journal. With the last issue of 2014, 108 papers have been published in Geoheritage since 2009, representing 1500 pages of new scientific data on geoconservation. Currently, an additional22 papers are already published online and ready to fill the entire volume for 2015.

With the support of guest editors, 3 special volumes have also been published in Geoheritage, bringing together scientific papers that have formed the basis of presentations at key scientific events, namely:

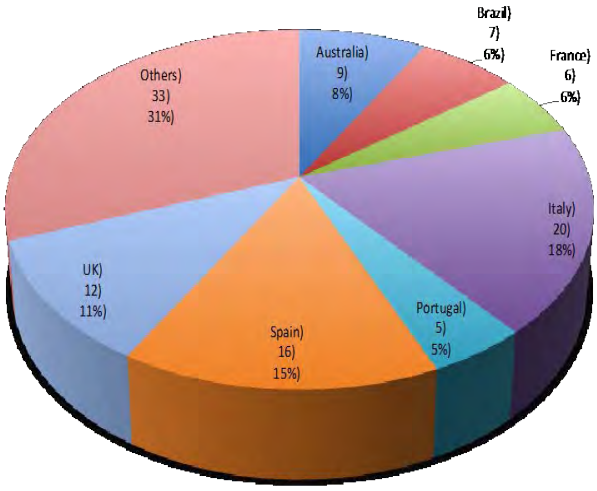
- Geomorphosites and geotourism (2011)
- Geotourism and geoconservation (2012)
- New Digital Technologies Applied to the Management of Geoheritage (2014).

The authors of papers published in Geoheritage come from more than 30 countries (Figure 1), reflecting the truely global impact of the journal. Within this context, Italy, Spain and the UK are the three countries with the highest contributions, with 20, 16 and 12 papers, respectively.

In September 2013, Geoheritage was selected for coverage in Thomson Reuter's products and services and from the beginning of 2011 volume, it has been indexed and abstracted in: i) Science Citation Index Expanded (also known as SciSearch®); ii) Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition; iii) Current Contents®/Physical Chemical and Earth Sciences.

And with an Impact Factor starting at 1.674, the journal is now much more attractable for global authors that need to publish in internationally recognised journals. Geoheritage is also abstracted/indexed in other international reference databases, such as SCOPUS, Google Scholar, Academic OneFile, Geobase, GeoRef, OCLC, SCImago and Summon by ProQuest.

Thanks to ProGEO (and also Springer who believed in our proposal), the scientific community has gained a new international journal that presents and discusses the wide range of topics that are directly or indirectly related to geoconservation. The initial challenge of ProGEO has been surpassed. The next is to maintain the high-quality of papers accepted for Geoheritage and to strengthen the importance of geoconservation as a geoscience and a practice with worldwide recognition.



Countries where authors publishing in Geoheritage are based (each having at least five papers). Countries represented within the 'Others' category include: Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, Fiji Islands, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Iran, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, USA.

Conference fee for the VIII International ProGEO Symposium in September 2015:

ProGEO have decided that active ProGEO members will enjoy an 8000 ISK reduction in the registration fee from announced in the second circular. Remember to have your membership subscription paid!

ProGEO

The European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage

Strokkur Photo: Sigmundur Einarsson

2nd Circular

The VIII International ProGEO Symposium

Geoconservation strategies in a changing world

Reykjavik, Iceland
8–12 September 2015

www.progeo.se

The European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage – ProGEO and the national organizing committee are pleased to invite you to participate in the **VIII International ProGEO Symposium** that will be held in Reykjavik, Iceland, from **8th to 12th of September 2015.** The symposium will be an open, international event with English as official language.

Hydrothermal encrustations at Reykjanes. Photo: Sigmundur Einarsson

Information on ProGEO website and Facebook

On-line registration and abstract submission

Important dates in 2015

May 1	**Early registration and abstract deadline**
September 8	Pre-symposium field excursion (optional)
September 9–10	Symposium days
September 11–12	Post-symposium field excursion (optional)

Symposium fees

	ProGEO member Student	Participant
Early registration before May 1	20.000 ISK | ~130 EUR*	25.000 ISK | ~160 EUR*
Late registration after April 30	30.000 ISK | ~200EUR*	35.000 ISK | ~230EUR*

This fee includes conference material and refreshments during the symposium.

ProGEO members will be informed of further subsidies.

* Fees are in Icelandic krona (ISK). The value of the fees in EUR varies depending on the exchange rate.

Theme and topics

The main aim of ProGEO is to promote the conservation of Europe's geological heritage, including its rich heritage of landscape, rocks, fossils and mineral sites.

The theme of the symposium will be **"Geoconservation strategies in a changing world"**. The aim is to define strategies that benefit and strengthen geological conservation from different angles but with a special focus on four main questions (A, B, C and D):

A	**How to secure the integrity of geosites under threat?** *Geosites might be affected by natural and human factors. According to the nature of these factors and the intrinsic characteristics of geosites, the implementation of correct management actions should guarantee proper protection and use of a geosite. What are the main threats to geosites and how to face them?*
B	**What is sustainable use of a geosite?** *Geosites should be conserved, not just protected. This means that geosites should be used by the society but without putting at risk the main geological features that characterize a locality as a geosite. What can be done to assure the proper use of a geosite?*
C	**Is mining and quarrying compatible with geoconservation?** *Usually, mining and quarrying is considered an enemy of conservation. Is this necessarily true? How can the exploitation of geological resources live together with the implementation of geoconservation measures?*
D	**How to incorporate geological heritage in EIA?** *Most countries have today a national policy for environmental impact assessments (EIA). EU regulations exist but they often forget the need to include geoheritage in EIA reports. What good experiences exist in different countries? Are geoheritage properly included in EIA?*

Oral presentations should preferably be related to the topics listed above, but poster presentations will be open to go beyond the four main questions. The symposium language is English.

Symposium abstracts

To submit your abstract, it is necessary to pre-register at the Conference web site and there you will also find abstract submission guidelines. The Scientific Committee will evaluate all abstracts before finalizing the symposium programme. You will receive a confirmation by E-mail before the 15th of May when the abstract has been reviewed. The abstracts will be printed and distributed at the symposium. The Scientific Committee will invite authors of the symposium to publish their contributions in a special volume of the journal *Geoheritage*.

Abstract submission deadline is 1st of May

Schedule and preliminary programme

September 8 - Tuesday

8:00-18:00	**Optional field excursion to Reykjanes Peninsula**
18:30-20:00	Icebreaker and Early registration

September 9 - Wednesday

07:45	Registration opens
08:30-09:00	Opening ceremony and address
09:00-10:00	Plenary session A
10:00-10:30	Coffee break and posters
10:30-12:30	Plenary session A
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:00	Plenary session B
15:00-15:30	Coffee break and posters
15:30-17:00	Plenary session B
17:30-19:00	"Round table"

September 10 - Thursday

09:00-10:30	Plenary session C
10:30-11:00	Coffee break and posters
11:00-12:30	Plenary session C
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:00	Plenary session D
15:00-15:30	Coffee break and posters
15:30-17:00	Plenary session D
17:00-18:00	Posters and refreshments (cash bar)
18:00-18:30	Closing of symposium
20:00-23:00	Symposium banquet at the Icelandair Hotel Reykjavik Natura

September 11-12 – Friday and Saturday

Optional field excursion to the Volcanic Zone of Southern Iceland

National Organizing Committee

Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson, Icelandic Environment Association

Guðríður Þorvarðardóttir, Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources

Hreggviður Norðdahl, University of Iceland, Institute of Earth Sciences

Lovísa Ásbjörnsdóttir, Icelandic Institute of Natural History

Ólafur A. Jónsson, Environment Agency of Iceland

Sigurlaug María Hreinsdóttir, Geoscience Society of Iceland

Þorsteinn Sæmundsson, Geoscience Society of Iceland

International Scientific Committee

Alexandru Andrasanu, University of Bucharest, Geology Department, ROMANIA

Enrique Diaz Martinez, Geological Survey of Spain, Instituto Geológico de Espana, SPAIN

Herdís Helga Schopka, Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources, ICELAND

Jan Urban, Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Nature Conservation, POLAND

José Brilha, ProGEO President. University of Minho, Earth Sciences Department, PORTUGAL

Kevin Page, Geoheritage Editor in Chief, University of Plymouth, UK

Kristján Jónasson, Icelandic Institute of Natural History, ICELAND

Lars Erikstad, ProGEO Executive Secretary. Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, NORWAY

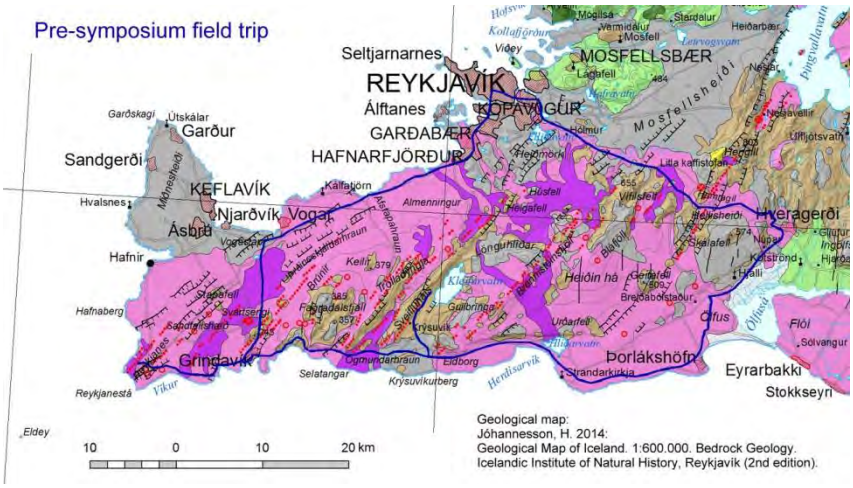
Todor Todorov, ProGEO Past President, BULGARIA

Þingvellir. Photo: Lovísa Ásbjörnsdóttir

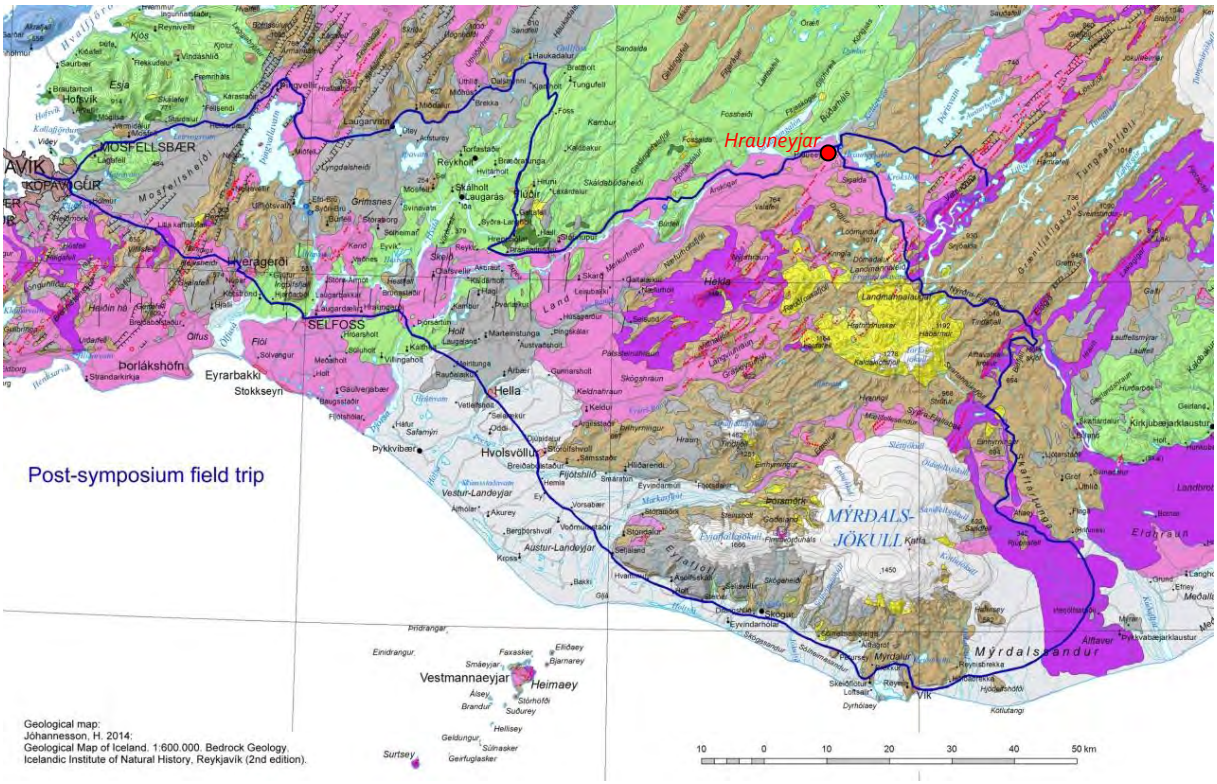
Symposium field excursions

Two optional field trips are planned:

• **Pre-symposium** one-day field trip to the Reykjanes Peninsula on the **8th of September**. The Reykjanes Peninsula is the inland continuation of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and a part of the Icelandic rift zone. The area is characterized by Weichselian and Holocene volcanic landscapes, displaying hyaloclastites, lava fields, crater rows, geothermal activity etc.



• **Post-symposium** two-day field trip in Southern Iceland on the **11–12th of September**. The field trip goes through the Eastern Volcanic Rift Zone, where some of the most active volcanoes are located, such as Katla, Eyjafjallajökull and Hekla. The field trip will stretch into the highlands of Iceland, with an overnight stay at Hrauneyjar Guesthouse (red dot on the map). In the highlands the view and the landscape are spectacular.



More detailed descriptions of the field trips are given on the following pages.

The Reykjanes Peninsula – September 8th

Guided by Sigmundur Einarsson and Kristján Jónasson

Reykjanes Peninsula, Mt. Trölladyngja and Mt. Grænadyngja. Photo: Sigmundur Einarsson

The Reykjanes Peninsula is traditionally interpreted as the subaerial extension of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The "transform-extensional" plate boundary, separating the Eurasian and North-American tectonic plates, stretches E-W along the peninsula with the extensional component expressed by en echelon arranged volcanic systems.

The volcanic systems are characterized by numerous NE-SW trending normal faults and fissures, with eruption fissures following the same direction. The volcanism displays the two different facies of subaerial and subglacial volcanism, i.e. lava flows and hyaloclastites (hydrothermally altered tuffs, tuff breccias and pillow lavas). Each volcanic system has a high temperature geothermal field.

Volcanism on the peninsula has been quiet since the thirteenth century. Submarine eruptions on the Reykjanes Ridge happened in the 18th and 19th century, forming a transient volcanic island in 1783.

Highlights:

Rauðhólar: 3500 years old pseudo craters (rootless craters) just outside Reykjavík. The majority of the scoria was exploited during the second world war for the foundations of Reykjavík airport.

Kristnitökuhraun: A smalla aa-lava field which, acccording to the sagas, had erupted in the year 1000 during the approval of Christianty in Iceland at Alþing, the local parliament.

Hellisheiði power plant: A visit to the geothermal energy exhibition at Hellisheiði power plant where geothermal energy is harnessed for hot water and electricity production. A drive through parts of the drilling fields on Hellisheiði.

Hveragerði town: The economy of this small town was originally based on geothermal greenhousing. During decades of harnessing the water table has dropped and surface activity has decreased.

Suðurstrandarvegur: A recently built main road along the south coast of the Reykjanes Peninsula. Due to high visibility demands the road was built straight across the area´s characteristic and partly pristine lava fields.

Krýsuvík geothermal area: Fumeroles and solfataras in hyaloclastite rocks.

Ögmundarhraun lava field and crater row: One of the area´s youngest lava fields, erupted in the 12th century from one of the few still undisturbed crater rows in SW-Iceland.

Ísólfsskáli: Hyaloclastites and pillow lavas.

Svartsengi fissures: The road between Grindavík and Reykjanes crosses some noticeable fissures expressing divergent rift in Svartsengi fissure swarm .

Reykjanes: The tip of the peninsula can be substantiated as the spot where the Mid-Atlantic Ridge rises above sea level. The Reykjanes fissure swarm.

Hiking through the Ögmundarhraun lava field. Photo: Lovísa Ásbjörnsdóttir

The bus will leave from Reykjavík at 8:30 in the morning and will be back to Reykjavík around 18:00. The one-day field trip fee is 13.950 ISK (~ 95 EUR) and includes bus transportation, guide, lunch, refreshments and tour material.

The Volcanic Zone of Southern Iceland – September 11-12th

Guided by Kristján Jónasson and Sigmundur Einarsson

Veiðivötn formed by a fissure eruption in the year 1477. Photo: Lovísa Ásbjörnsdóttir

Two volcanic zones are active in South Iceland, the Western Volcanic Zone and the Eastern Volcanic Zone. The Western Volcanic Zone represents the on-land continuation of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The southern part of the Eastern Volcanic Zone is a non-rifting flank zone, while the northern part is a southwards propagating rift zone. The Western and Eastern Volcanic Zones are connected by the South Iceland Seismic Zone, an incipient transform zone.

The Eastern Volcanic Zone contains the most active volcanoes and volcanic systems in Iceland, including the Katla, Hekla and Eyjafjallajökull central volcanoes. The volcanic fissure swarms of Bárðarbunga and Grímsvötn dominate the northern part. The volcanic geodiversity of the area is characterized by subglacially formed volcanic formations, craters and lava fields, geothermal areas and glaciers. The tour will stretch into the highlands of Iceland, where the views and the landscape are spectacular.

Day 1: The tour will take you across the Western Volcanic Zone at Þingvellir before crossing the Hreppar microplate into the northern part of the Eastern Volcanic Zone in the central highlands.

Highlights:

Þingvellir National Park: Site of the Alþing general assembly from 930 to 1798 and a UNESCO World Heritage site for its cultural values. Spectacular fissures and normal faults form a 7 km wide graben marking the tectonic plate boundary.

Geysir geothermal area: High temperature geothermal area named after the Great Geysir. Hot springs and geysers.

Veiðivötn: The Veiðivötn volcanic fissure swarm is part of the Bárðarbunga volcanic system. This area is the source of many of the largest eruptions during the Holocene, including the ~8600 years

BP Þjórsá lava (25 km^3). The eruptive fissures of the 871 AD Vatnaöldur eruption and the 1477 AD Veiðivötn eruption will be visited.

Overnight stay at **Hrauneyjar Guesthouse**.

Day 2: The tour will take you across the Eastern Volcanic Zone in the southern highlands before returning to Reykjavík along the south coast.

Highlights:

Landmannalaugar: The northern part of the rhyolitic Torfajökull central volcano, most of which is within the Fjallabak nature reserve. The area has been placed on Iceland's Tentative List for nomination for the UNESCO World Heritage List. Interaction of basaltic Veiðivötn eruptions with the rhyolitic Torfajökull volcano. Hot springs and colourful rhyolite formations.

Eldgjá: The eruptive fissure of the catastrophic 934–940 AD Eldgjá eruption (10-20 km^3). The fissure is at least 50 km long, extending SW-NE from Mýrdalsjökull towards Vatnajökull glacier.

Katla Geopark: Iceland's first geopark, established in 2011. Most of the day will be spent within the geopark. It is named after the highly active Katla volcano situated beneath the Mýrdalsjökull ice cap. The geopark is 9542 km^2 or around 9,3 % of the total area of Iceland.

Eldgjá eruptive fissure. Photo: Regína Hreinsdóttir

The bus will leave from Reykjavík at 8:30 in the morning and will be back to Reykjavík the next day around 19:00. The two day field trip fee is 73.600 ISK (~ 500 EUR) and includes bus transportation, guide, meals, one night at a guesthouse, refreshments and tour material.

Venue

The conference will be held at the Icelandair Hotel Reykjavik Natura. This hotel has become one of the most popular places to stay in Reykjavik. The hotel is situated approx. 20–30 minutes walk from the town centre. It is a newly refurbished hotel located in the beautiful surroundings of Öskjuhlíð hill and Nauthólsvík beach. The hotel is certified as a Green Hotel and operates accordingly.

Icelandair Hotel Reykjavik Natura is the perfect place in which to hold conferences and meetings. The hotel offers impressive conference and meeting facilities suitable for small meetings and events,as well as larger conferences, exhibitions and presentations. Hotel Reykjavik Natura offers all the facilities and services you need for a successful event, all under one roof.

Icelandair Hotel Reykjavik Natura. Photo: Iceland Travel Conferences

Conference office

Iceland Travel Conferences
Skogarhlid 12, 105 Reykjavik, Iceland.
Phone: +354 585 4200; Fax +354 585 4390;
E-mail: conferences@icelandtravel.is

Other information

Hotels and accommodation

The conference organizer has reserved rooms at Icelandair Hotel Reykjavik Natura, the symposium hotel, and at the Kex Hotel Guesthouse which is within a 20 minutes walk from the location of the symposium. Further details are given on the conference web site. We advise you to book your accommodation in good advance as you will be staying in Reykjavík during the high tourist season.

Airport transfer

The distance from Keflavík International Airport to Reykjavík is 55 km, or 45 minutes drive. The Flybus airport shuttle or Airport Express will take you from Keflavik International Airport to Reykjavik city and vice versa. The buses are connected to all arriving and departing flights at Keflavik airport. Seats are always guaranteed.

Passports and Visas

Travel between countries participating in the Schengen cooperation is allowed without formal passport control including Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and Germany. For additional information on passport and visa requirements see Icelandic Directorate of Immigration website.

Currency and Exchange

The national currency is the Icelandic Krona (ISK). 1 EUR is approx. 140 ISK. Money can easily be exchanged at the airport, in banks and currency exchanges in Iceland. All major credit cards are accepted and can be used to pay for virtually anything – except the public buses. ATM/Bank machines are found in most banks and many other locations throughout the country.

General Information

The official time in Iceland is GMT without daylight saving. The power supply is a 220-240 voltage. Participants are advised to take out travel and health insurance. The weather in Iceland is cool and changes frequently. In the middle of September daytime temperature is about 10° C. For excursions you are advised to take warm and rainproof clothing and footwear. See conference web site for further details.

Accompanying persons

Accompanying persons staying in Reykjavik can get information regarding tours and activities at the conference desk at the Icelandair Hotel Natura or by contacting the conference secretariat. Accompanying persons wanting to take part in pre-symposium field excursion to the Reykjanes Peninsula and/or the post- symposium excursion through the volcanic areas of southern Iceland have to register on the conference web site.

Symposium Hosts and Sponsors

ProGEO
The European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage

ICELANDIC INSTITUTE OF NATURAL HISTORY

LANDVERND
ICELANDIC ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

IUGS

Geoscience Society of Iceland

IUCN

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY OF ICELAND

Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources

University of Iceland
Institute of Earth Sciences

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- 25/yr.(without journal subscription),
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