

Fire, Food, and Fun

by Lyckele Faber fra Fitjamyri

Trolls, elves, gnomes? The Lord of the Rings? Nope--Iceland. That's what it felt like looking out at the beautiful landscape from the back of my sturdy horse. It was as if I had been transported back in time to a world of legends.

In the summer of 2010, my dad took a group of people to Iceland on tour. I was lucky enough to go along! I got a good taste of what this almost unknown country is all about. And by taste, I don't only mean in the metaphorical sense, for this is where I had the best lamb ever, delicious lake trout and lava-baked bread. I also tasted rotten shark fin - yup you read that right. In this country rich with tradition, eating shark fin that has been left in the ground to rot for weeks, followed by a good shot of brennivín, or "black death" (a strong alcoholic beverage) is one among many interesting traditions.



Arnold and Ly Faber at Skógafoss waterfall



Lake trout and lava-baked bread from Myvatn

Another tradition in Iceland which permeates the entire culture is the amazing horsemanship, when you come to Iceland you cannot help but notice it. On the outskirts of Reykjavik we visited a huge stable complex where many of the locals keep their horses nearby. Also, you will see these majestic creatures dotted throughout the landscape as you travel the countryside.



We all love Icelandic horses here in Canada, but there's nothing like riding an Icelandic horse in the country that made them! You gain a true appreciation for just how much this land has made these horses so strong. It's rugged, mystical, and beautiful.

There are places in Iceland that really are unlike anything else you will see on this planet. I was amazed by Myvatn--one of the most interesting places I have ever been. There we did a hike through Dimmuborgir, which is an area of lava formations. I can see how legends of mythical creatures are formed in such a place. Dimmuborgir in fact means "Dark Cities", and in folklore is believed to be the place where Satan landed when he was cast from the heavens! Myvatn is one of Iceland's more unknown treasures when compared to the Golden circle (which I also got to see!).



Hot spring near Myvatn



Kirkjan (The Church) in Dimmuborgir

Icelanders are so incredibly friendly. It's easy to become submerged in their lifestyle as they invite you into their homes and treat you like family. We shared drink and tales, laughed under the midnight sun, and left the country amidst warm hugs and promises of return. Travelling through Iceland was definitely one of the biggest highlights in my life, and I cannot wait to return there this year!

