



Bringing people
together from
across the
world

International PLAY * ICELAND

2019



www.internationalplayiceland.com
6th - 11th October 2019

Play Iceland Rules

TRIP GROUP FOR OCTOBER 2019

1. Have an incredible time.
2. Be ready to learn & share ideas.
3. Absolutely make friends.
4. If in doubt ask?
5. Try new things....life's an adventure.
6. Believe in yourself, you can make a difference.
7. Have fun.





Tragically passed away
June 5th 2015 age 32

Hulda Hreidarsdottir is the founder of Fafu and alongside Tom Shea the co founder of International Play Iceland.

She spent most of her childhood talking to herself and finds children more interesting than adults. Hulda took play really seriously and spent her time developing solutions that offer better play opportunities for children. She was an inspirational woman with great plans to change the world.

HULDA
Always in our
heart & thoughts

HULDA
FOUNDER OF
FAFU DRESSING
UP CLOTHING



www.fafunia.com



Welcome

TO ALL THOSE ATTENDING INTERNATIONAL ICELAND 2019



Welcome & thank you

From - Tom Shea and the IPI team

Welcome to International Play Iceland 2019

As with previous years we try to incorporate a whole set of extraordinary experiences to share what we do, know, want to discover, have never discovered and delight in an environment that removes you from the day to day and allows you to stretch into the future.

So, here we go to this years' new and exciting week in Iceland.

It's been another fantastic collaborative effort by the Icelandic Team and you can be assured we are once again among our Icelandic friends and ready to absorb the delights if Iceland. So food etc will be geared to the original - not touristy stuff and the Hotel is very central and comfortable.

This year we see guests joining us from the UK, Canada, New Zealand, USA and of course Australia.

IN CASE YOU NEED TO CONTACT
TOM SHEA DURING THE TRIP

TEL: 07831-635802 (UK)
TEL: 00 44 - 7831-635802

IN CASE YOU NEED TO
CONTACT **OLLIE PAINÉ** DURING
THE TRIP

TEL: 00 44 - 7817-209102

OUR ICELAND CONTACT
BRYNDÍS HREIDARSDÓTTIR

TEL: 00 354 849 3847

YOUR HOTEL DETAILS

FOSS HOTEL
PÓRUNNARTÚN 1,
105 REYKJAVÍK
E-MAIL:
REYKJAVIK@FOSSHOTEL.IS
TEL. +354 531 9000

Our Mission



International Play Iceland is an organic entity increasingly committed to bringing together excellence in practice, knowledge and the passion to want to grow a movement that will test and challenge the absurdity of putting children into education at a younger and younger age.

The seed was a commitment to open ended resources - from both Tom and Hulda, sharing that knowledge based upon the Icelandic culture and their approach, not only to education, but also the way lifestyle affected the way in which their children were treated. The risks and challenges, the encouragement for them to think and learn for themselves, the passive role of the pedagogist and parents/carers and the effect that has obviously had.

Iceland is a land of creative and tolerant demanders and dreamers. The obvious effect can be seen in the art, recreation, design, technology and therefore their approach to education are there to be observed.

With this, our fifth adventure and now a far more International grouping, we are less about changing the way we work with young children, it's about how we THINK about children. The standards we set will be the standards of tomorrow.

So as you come and join International Play Iceland for the first time, or the second, or third, we hope we can create an opportunity for you to join together and share and consider what this strange adventure called Early Years is really all about.



ICELAND INTERNATIONAL PLAY

A little history

Iceland is a truly magical place, with a culture and a country that needs to be seen to be believed. So welcome to that journey. After coming together as two like minded individuals with a passion for positive brain development, Hulda and I decided to bring others in to the conversation. Some young learners and some like minded people and so began Play Iceland in 2013.

Hulda's heritage, passion and knowledge for Iceland and the importance of play shone through.

To get like minded people together in the environment of Iceland gave an opportunity to explore and expand thinking. If you are looking for a different way of thinking and working with children and their development, or to endorse some of your own thinking, we believe Iceland is a great place to be and to learn from each other.



This year we are delighted to welcome more people from a larger geography such as Australia the USA, New Zealand and England alongside our growing body of Icelandic colleagues and friends.

Great practice is being shared and honed in a new and exciting way. So....Play Iceland is a 6 day adventure exploring Icelandic nursery settings and culture. It is an international event where practitioners have the opportunity to connect across continents and create professional bonds that fuels their passion for the years to come.

We will always miss Hulda and her modest dynamism, but take the skills, attitudes and ethos that she showed us in past years, and make 2019 a truly inspiring and creative Play Iceland date.

Tom
Imaginator / Fafunian

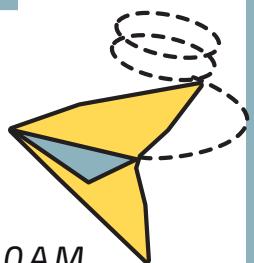
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www.internationalplayiceland.com



S U N D A Y O C T O B E R 6 T H 2 0 1 9

EMBARK TO ICELAND



UK ATTENDEE'S DEPART FROM LONDON LUTON AIRPORT 06:50AM

The Blue lagoon *6th Oct*



SOMETHING SPECIAL

So we land in Iceland... it's bright and early but buzzing with excitement we head straight to the infamous Blue Lagoon to settle the travel nerves and enjoy a bit of relax before the week starts.... Then lunch in their amazing LAVA restaurant - and off to the 4 star hotel in the centre and a chance to unpack and prepare for a local evening meal.. Approximate arrival time to the lagoon is 09:45am -
Then Lunch in the Blue Lagoon restaurant at 12pm.

GOOD-TO-KNOW

The water temperature is generally between 37-40°C (98-104°F).

The lagoon contains 9 million litres of water.

The water is self-cleansing - it renews itself every 40 hours.

Blue Lagoon is mostly ca. 0.8-1.2 metres deep. Its deepest point is 1.4 meters.

If you don't want to go in the lagoon don't worry you can relax and enjoy a drink and watch the group.

SUNDAY 6TH

FOSS HOTEL

In central Reykjavík, only 150 m from Laugavegur shopping street and 50 m from Klambratún city park. With Hallgrímskirkja church only 1 km away the location is perfect for those who want to explore Reykjavík at its best.



MEET AT 6:30PM FOR DINNER

After getting comfortable at the hotel and unpacking those suitcases, we will have a little get together to discuss the week ahead before walking to a restaurant loved by locals as well as travellers.

After having a cosy first night we will turn in early as an exciting day of visits await.



MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER

We'll meet at 8am for breakfast located in the main hotel restaurant, then afterwards the groups will begin their visits to this years selected schools. (see group allocations later on in this booklet)



MONDAY 7TH

Our school visits are deliberately small groups and you may not be with people you know. This will help you build new friendships, join in with the school day and have their lunch.

The aim is to have you back for around 4:00pm.



Keep in mind the differences and similarities you find in the culture and lives of the society you have joined and your own.

Take opportunities to discuss and reflect with the local teachers as well as the other members of your group.

At 6pm we'll board our coach which will take us for supper followed by a visit to Svanhildur at Spilavinir for a night of fun and games.

MONDAY EVENING

Experience a real working **GAMES** shop called- **Spilivanir**.

They have a wonderful collection of games plus experts who really care about how we can socialise and work together. (and if you have never played Happy Salmon - you will that night)

<https://www.spilavinir.is/>

 Spilavinir



TUESDAY 8TH

8.00am early breakfast together then another day of opportunities to experience the life of preschool children in Iceland and their educators.



A day with children, your group and your hosts...

4pm-ish back to the hotel where there are break out spaces or your hotel room or just take a walk to the beach.

At 6.30pm we'll meet to visit Fischer – an amazing experience developed by Sigur Rós's Jónsi – sensory space and resources.

TUESDAY EVENING 8TH OCTOBER

7:30pm
Supper together in the harbour with some of our Icelandic colleagues – then some free time to walk and relax through the local night life...



WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER

Nature Day

8am Breakfast together in the main hotel restaurant.

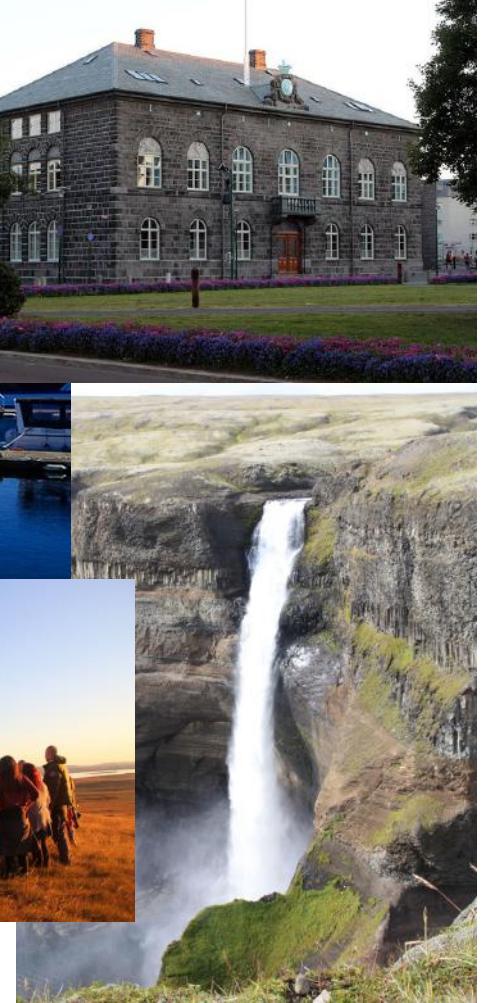
8.30am A day of wonderment... together... in a coach to visit local Iceland...

To a beautiful local toy factory – where this cooperative group self-supported with no grants design, build, and run it themselves – their love of wood and imagination is amazing...

On to the black sandy beaches of the West Coast and some other surprises.. with lunch on the way – somewhere.

Then off to visit our friends Linda Stefánsdóttir and Daniel Hjörtur Sigmundsson at the foot of the mountain and the edge of the sea – and supper by the fire and sat beside some converted bendy buses.

The last time we were there the Northern Lights opened their wings for us. Incredible to witness, so let's keep our fingers crossed.



A TRULY MAGICAL PLACE

10TH OCTOBER

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Breakfast as ever..... and then a busy day..

We take over the Theatre next door to Civic Centre in Reykjavik.

Morning time we'll do a "come and play with us" session for children and their parents and carers.

9.30am -12.00pm

And here comes your second INSTRUCTION. Everybody needs to bring one action/opportunity/ experience to share with the children and be prepared to spend the morning playing and giving them the opportunity to explore these strange worldly people....

12- 12.30 Clear up and then off to lunch in the Theatre.

After lunch a chance to explore the Centre (or Center if you're from the USA) and back at..

5.30pm Nature and Nurture and shared cultures...

An invite to Iceland to hear from Teacher Tom, Marghanita, Niki and two special guests from Iceland....

8pm Supper and Beer with some of our hosts and some evening entertainments to engage and surprise us (and it really will be a surprise as we don't know who yet!!)



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Friday 11th October

IT DOESN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT, SO THANK YOU

Bleary eyed trip to the airport after a hearty breakfast. Those flying back to the UK our flight time is 09:15am so we'll be on the coach by 6:30am.

So this year we were joined by guests from USA, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the UK with a common thread – a passion for children.



International Play Iceland originated in (You guessed it...) Iceland. We believe that Iceland is a truly magical place that needs to be seen to be believed!

The idea behind International Play Iceland came from two like minded individuals with passions for positive brain development. Their ideas and passion blossomed into life when they created Play Iceland in 2013.



INFORMATION ABOUT SETTINGS YOU WILL VISIT

1. Urdarhóll

Urdarholl's educational philosophy is based on healthy and balanced lifestyle emphasizing exercise, nutrition and creativity. There is a lot of outdoor activities every day, involving both free play and trekking to nearby nature sites (such as the beach). We also have an indoor area designed for sports, dance and climbing, which is constantly in use by the children. Music and the arts are valued highly as a means of learning and self-expression. The teachers believe a child's confidence in itself and its physical abilities affects its ability to communicate, connect with others and to learn through play. Giving each child a freedom of choice to follow its own path of development is believed to be of core importance at Urdarholl.

Link to school: urdarholl@kopavogur.is

GROUP B

MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER

NIKI BUCHAN - AUSTRALIA

TIM BAKER - UK

LILY HOLLAND - UK

CINDY JONES - USA

CARLIE O'CROWLEY - UK

2. Stekkjarás

Stekkjarás have taken part in Play Iceland for a few years now.

The ideas of the child, today's project is what educators at Stekkjaras keep in mind in their daily work. They find it important to support each child's abilities and interests with including them in decision making. As the Reggio Emilia philosophy indicates, Stekkjaras looks at environment as having the role of the third teacher. They aim to offer the children a diverse and encouraging surroundings. Stekkjaras looks at play as a core importance in everyday life and should be given enough space. It is through play that children learn to understand the world around them, communicate their ideas, feelings and experience and understand perspectives of others. Stekkjaras uses their surroundings to create opportunities for exploring and playing in nature..

Link to school: stekkjaras@hafnarfjordur.is

GROUP A

MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER

TOM HOBSON - USA

RACHEL MACBETH-WEBB - UK

KATIE VICTOR-TROTT - UK

ANGELA GREEN - UK

ABI SMITH - UK

GROUP C

TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER

HAYLEY RUSSELL - UK

CHRISTINE TOUSSAINT - AUSTRALIA

GRACE ELEANOR SMITH - UK

HANNAH OVERFIELD - UK

INFORMATION ABOUT SETTINGS YOU WILL VISIT

3) Adalthing School

Adalthing preschool is located in the suburb of the town Kopavogur. The location is close to an ancient location for the first know parliament in Iceland, this was before the year 930 when the grander location at

Thingvellir was established as the Parliament of Iceland. This history plays an important part in the identity of the preschool Adalthing. The curriculum and the environment strives for democracy for all, teachers and children. The goal of daily life in the preschool is to empower children to have a say in their life, to live fully, play and be happy. The school has established a thoroughly pondered mealtime policy. The food at Adalthing is clean and as local as possible with fresh ingredients and all meals are made from scratch. But above all, we believe that the quality time of eating with your friends is as important (if not more) as the nourishment of the food.

School webpage: <http://www.adalthing.is/is>
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqGQmh0hnJ2fYt3kv1o4Sg>

GROUP C

TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER

HAYLEY RUSSELL - UK
CHRISTINE TOUSSAINT - AUSTRALIA
GRACE ELEANOR SMITH - UK
HANNAH OVERFIELD - UK

GROUP D

TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER

MARGHANITA HUGHES - CANADA
MAGGIE CALDWELL - UK
CHARLOTTE JARVIS - UK
LEANNE AUSTIN - USA
CAROLINE EL-SEMMAN - UK

4. Krikaskóli

In a small village in Iceland the local community decided to try a new idea. What would happen if they made a school for 1-9 year olds, instead of the traditional 1-5 preschool, 6-12 and 13-16 elementary level. What happens if you take the culture and education of the preschools, where play and abstract work with art and elements is common, and merge it with the old traditions of the elementary school? You will get Krikaskoli

Krikaskoli is built as an integrated preschool and elementary school for children inform the age of 1-9 years old. The ideology behind the school, the building and school grounds were all designed as a whole to support and strengthen its academic work. The ideology is based on constructionism, an educational theory which assumes that knowledge is a product of the meaning each individual creates out of their experiences. The educational environment is then coherent, multifaceted and genuine for children that develop their own knowledge. The school centres around the idea of "A School for everyone" and the group has many diversities. There is a strong belief that all our children need to be able to participate in every activity. Therefore the planning must be accessible to all the children with every imaginable need.

Link to school: <http://www.krikaskoli.is/>

GROUP D

MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER

MARGHANITA HUGHES - CANADA
MAGGIE CALDWELL - UK
CHARLOTTE JARVIS - UK
LEANNE AUSTIN - USA
CAROLINE EL-SEMMAN

GROUP G

TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER

ALICE BENNETT - UK
JOLANTA USELYTE - UK
CHERIE GOUGH - UK
RACHEL MCSKIMMING - UK

INFORMATION ABOUT SETTINGS YOU WILL VISIT

5. Ugluklettur

Ugluklettur is a pre-school located on the outskirts of Borgarnes, a village of 2000 inhabitants. It has developed an education vision built on the ideology of positive psychology as well as Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi's theories about flow. Located by the sea, Ugluklettur finds it important to encourage play and learning in nature and has developed a tool box for outside learning they call the adventure chest. They also have access to a house in the centre of the village which 4-6 year old children spend time regularly for the purpose of exploring and getting to know their community better.

School webpage: <http://www.ugluklettur.borgarbyggd.is/>

Kristín is the principle at Ugluklettur. Her e-mail is: kristing@borgarbyggd.is

GROUP E

MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER

RACHEL LLOYD - UK
CATHERINE MILLER - UK
LINDA PRICE - AUSTRALIA
ANDREA LEONARD - UK

GROUP F

TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER

MICHELE LARMAN - UK
ANNA ORMANDY - NEW ZEALAND
KIM JONES - UK
CAMILLA HEYWOOD -UK

6. Mánagarður

This school has participated a few times before on the Play Iceland adventures Managardur is a preschool for children aged two to six. It is located on campus and most of the children are children of university students. Managardur has 68 full day spaces and four departments. In 2008 they became interested in High Scope approach and sent two teachers to do their High Scope training at High Scope Research Foundation in Ypsilanti USA and are certified High-Scope trainers and teachers. The core of High-Scope is active learning and we know that children learn through play so we value it very much and give our children a lot of time to play, both inside and out.

Link to school: <http://managardur.leikskolinn.is/>

GROUP F

MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER

MICHELE LARMAN - UK
ANNA ORMANDY - NEW ZEALAND
KIM JONES - UK
CAMILLA HEYWOOD -UK

GROUP E

TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER

RACHEL LLOYD - UK
CATHERINE MILLER - UK
LINDA PRICE - AUSTRALIA
ANDREA LEONARD - UK

INFORMATION ABOUT SETTINGS YOU WILL VISIT

7. Borg

Borg Preschool is at an important juncture in our development as we are developing our teaching methodologies and restructuring the fundamental policy of the school. The Municipality of Reykjavik has recently implemented a new educational policy which we also adhere too. We are utilizing the opportunity to further develop our Preschool into a creative learning community that will serve to provide children with the skills they need to have in order to meet the needs of the 21st century.

The education policy focuses on children, their needs and welfare in the present and the future, while at the same time empowering staff and increasing professionalism in school and leisure activities. We at Borg Preschool

GROUP G

MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER

ALICE BENNETT - UK
JOLANTA USELYTE - UK
CHERIE GOUGH - UK
RACHEL MCSKIMMING - UK

GROUP A

TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER

TOM HOBSON - USA
RACHEL MACBETH-WEBB - UK
KATIE VICTOR-TROTT - UK
ANGELA GREEN - UK
ABI SMITH - UK

8. Sæborg

asta.kristin.svavarsdottir@rvkskolar.is

æborg preschool is located on the south coast in central Reykjavik. Its educational philosophy is based on Reggio Emilia with emphasis on creative environment and democracy. The art room is the heart of the school where recycled materials get a new life. At Sæborg, every child is recognized as a strong, skilled and creative individual. The child's ideas and interests lead the way. The environment encourages them to use all their senses, ask questions and find their own answers. The cooperation between teachers and parents is essential. Parents and teachers work together on a personalised educational plan for each child and make sure information about the child's life events and important moments are shared between school and family.

GROUP B

MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER

NIKI BUCHAN - AUSTRALIA / TIM BAKER - UK
LILY HOLLAND - UK / CINDY JONES - USA
CARLIE O'CROWLEY - UK

9. Geislabaugur

Geislabaugur is a Reggio-inspired, play based preschool in one of the suburbs in Reykjavik. The core values shining throughout the school are respect, joy and creation. Respecting the individual, his or her views, ideas and actions will empower the child, lead to more self-responsibility and deeper self respect. In a joyful and creative environment nothing is right or wrong and every ones curious side can develop and shine.

GROUP C

MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER

HAYLEY RUSSELL - UK / CHRISTINE TOUSSAINT - AUSTRALIA
GRACE ELEANOR SMITH - UK / HANNAH OVERFIELD - UK



Niki Buchan -
Australia



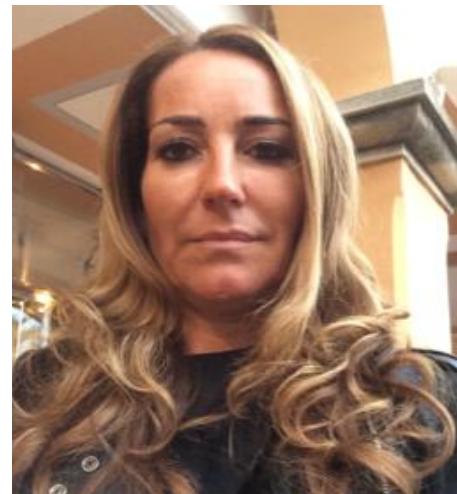
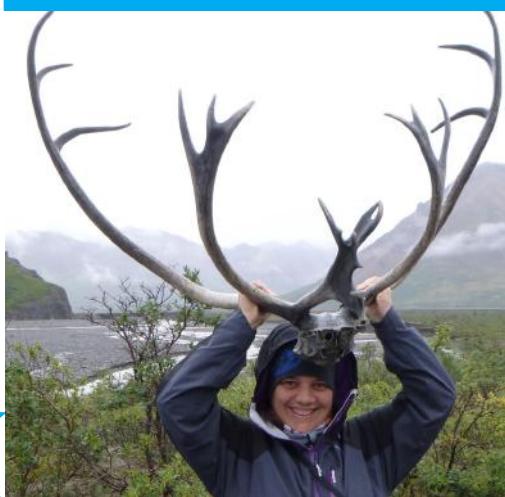
Marghanita Hughes -
Canada



Tom Hobson - USA



Catherine Miller



Hayley Russell - UK



Michele Larman -
UK

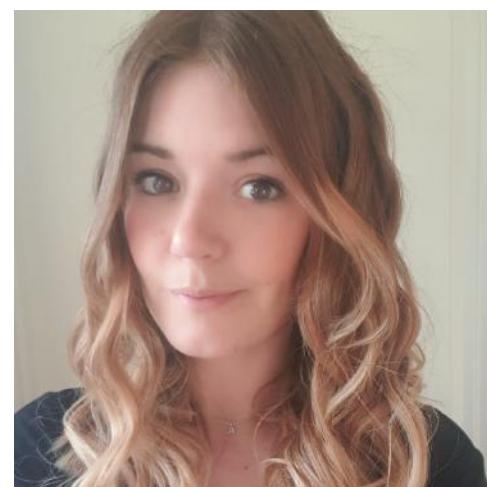


Lily Holland - UK



PLAY ICELAND

*Meet The
Team*



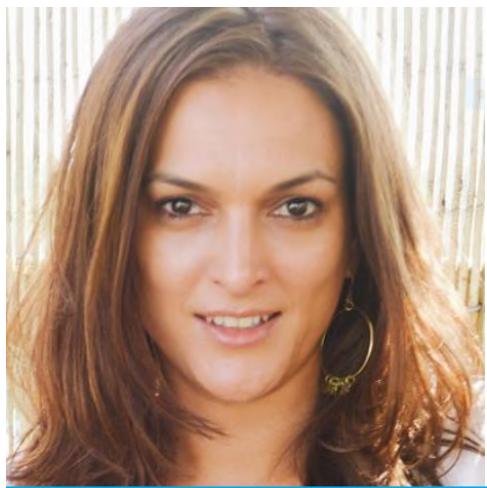
Rachel McSkimming - UK



Tom Shea - UK - IPI
Co Founder



Tim Baker - UK



Maggie Caldwell - UK



Angela Green -
UK



Ollie Paine - UK
IPI Coordinator



Linda Price -
Australia



*Meet The
Team*



Andrea Leonard -
UK



Christine Toussaint -
Australia



Leanne Austin - USA



Jennifer
Hurshell - USA

Play Iceland 2019





PLAY ICELAND

*Meet The
Team*



Jolante Uselyte - UK



Kim Jones - UK



Cindy Jones - USA



Hannah Overfield -
UK



Grace Smith - UK



David Hughes - Canada



Caroline El-Semman - UK



Cherie Cough - UK

Play Iceland 2019





Camilla Heywood
- UK



Carlie O'Crowley - UK



Rachel Lloyd - UK



Anna Ormandy -
New Zealand



Charlotte Jarvis - UK



Abi Smith - UK



Alice Bennett - UK



Bryndís Hreiðarsdóttir -
Iceland Coordinator

Bryndis (also known as Disa) has been with us from the start and plays a crucial role in making sure things go as smoothly as possible once we are in Iceland. We couldn't organise this event without her and we are truly delighted that she has continued to support Play Iceland, and her knowledge and expertise is vital in making our experiences memorable.

Play Iceland 2019



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ICELAND

1. Icelandic babies are left outside to nap in freezing temperatures. It is not uncommon to see a pram outside a coffee shop parents crabbing a cup while the baby sleeps. Or to see one outside of a home as many Icelandic babies nap outside at least once a day, no matter the season.



2. Iceland is a nation of book worms. There is a term in Icelandic called *jólabókaflóð*, the Christmas book flood. It refers to the great number of books published before Christmas, as books are popular Christmas presents.



7. There are volcanic eruptions every few years in Iceland. Most of which are small and magnificent to look at from afar

8. Nearly all of Iceland's heating and electricity needs are served by hydroelectric power and geothermal water reserves.

9. There are no mosquitoes in Iceland. There are in fact very few insects that can do much more to bother a person than simply existing.

10. Iceland's capital Reykjavik, is the northernmost city of any sovereign state in the world. It doesn't get that cold though. Average temperature in Reykjavik in January is just about the same as in New York.

11. Icelanders don't have surnames in the traditional sense. The vast majority of Icelandic surnames simply record the fact that you are your father's (or mother's) son or daughter. First names are almost always used when addressing someone, no matter how formal the meeting. Even the phone book lists subscribers by their first name

12. More on names. There are strict laws on what names are allowed in Iceland, the point is to preserve Icelandic language. All names not previously accepted must go before the Icelandic Naming Committee, which either allows them if they abide to the laws on Icelandic names, or rejects them, forcing parents to find another name for their child.



13. The English word "geyser" comes from the name of the great geyser, Geysir in Haukadalur, South Iceland.

14. There is no railway system of any sort in Iceland.

15. Iceland has only waged one war, and it can barely be called war. Its name is *Þorskastríðið*, The Cod War, it was a dispute between Iceland and the UK over fishing grounds in 1960s and 70s.

Erin Kenny



Heartfelt words were originally written by Tom Hobson - October 2018

I love you, Erin. I love who you are and what you have meant to our profession and to the children both in your own backyard and around the world. You have opened my eyes, you have made me think, you have inspired my own practices, and you have single-handedly pushed us all toward the deep understanding that humans, if we are to survive and thrive, must re-connect with one another and with mother nature; that this is the source of everything that is good about humanity. That has been at the centre of your message to the world and will be the core of the stories that will make up your eternal life. Your profound influence has been both local and worldwide, with people from all corners of the globe seeking you out, calling out for you, clamoring to learn more about the Cedarsong Way, practices that will continue to spread like ripples from a boot stomped in this mud puddle of a world.

You have touched me not just through your work, but through your being. I will never forget that you reminded me, despite the pain and exhaustion that was exacerbated by our travels, to fill my lungs with Iceland's cold, clean, glacial air as we crossed the tarmac together to board our plane home, nor will I ever be able to sit on a beach without thinking of your poetic description of the black sands and salt air and fresh winds that you found in Iceland. I will always cherish having seen waterfalls and volcanos and oceans with you.

We cried together, both in sorrow and joy.
You will always be with me in the pure peace of a Northwest forest.

You will never be gone. You live and you will live. I'm honoured to have been your friend and ally. All of us will be forever grateful for your magnificent life and work. You promised me that you would meet us all again. It's a promise to which I will hold you, my dear friend, protector of nature, champion of children, and mother of the Cedarsong Way.

Erin Kenny Cedarsong - Aug 3rd 1960 - Oct 19th 2018



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