ICELAND

Shades of Autumn

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More than 10 years ago, during my first stay, Iceland was a land unknown to travelers. Since then, this country has become a trendy destination for lovers of grandiose landscapes. With a myriad of rivers and waterfalls, where we find the largest glaciers in Europe, this isolated volcanic island in the southern Arctic Ocean reveals exceptional natural sites.

I return this time, with my partner, to make him discover, aboard a van, the natural riches of this island. It is in autumn, once the tourist season is over, that the harsh climate takes over. This season is extremely windy and rainy. Faced with these natural elements, Iceland offers us a unique and striking spectacle. The promise of an unusual adventure in unique landscapes in the world.

From the black sand beaches of Vik to the lava fields of the Snafellsnes peninsula, from the vertiginous cliffs of Dirolahey to the magical icebergs of Jökulsarlon, without forgetting the famous Blue Lagoon, it is an incredible breathtaking spectacle that awaits our eyes.

In October, heavy low clouds cover the reliefs. The freezing rains disturb our hikes in these mountains adorned with magnificent colors. When the vegetation reaches its fullest and richest fall hues, the soft green moss blends its colors into shades of red and gold.

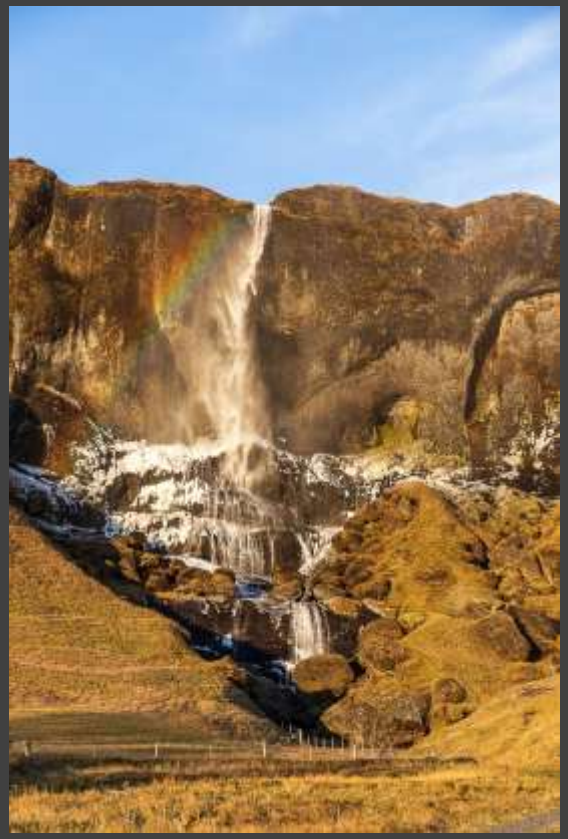
Faced with the brutality of katabatic winds coming down from the glaciers, the gusts combined with sleet or rain can be freezing. One night, shaken by the gusts of wind that batter our vehicle, my little reassured companion whispers: "I'm afraid the van will turn over! ". Despite the austerity of its landscapes and the severity of its autumnal climate, Iceland fascinates and reveals a bit of its soul. The important thing is to be well covered!

Michel Cavalier & Cathy Berberich

Route 1 or Ring Road is the main road in Iceland, 1,339 kilometers long. It goes around the country roughly following the coastline. In the distance stand the reliefs of the Skaftafell National Park dominated by one of the glacier tongues of the immense Vatnajökul.

The church of Vík located on a hill which dominates the village, a locality located on the south coast. This site is also a place of evacuation in the event of an eruption of the subglacial volcano Katla, under Mýrdalsjökull.

View from road 1 towards Vik, an isolated farm at the foot of the Arjanurfoss waterfall.



Hikers on the trail through the Reykjadalur valley and leading to a natural hot spring.

The spectacular Skógafoss waterfall is one of the most famous and visited in the country.

Sudurland region, a tourist contemplates the Skógafoss falls from a height of 62m.

The cliffs of the Akranes peninsula north of Reykjavik.

Vesturland region, Geysir, Blesi geothermal basin, water heated by volcanic activity and high pressure, causes the minerals in the water to dissolve and give this opal blue color.

Haukadalur valley, Geysir, Strokkur geyser eruption. This geyser can reach a height of 20m high approximately every 8 minutes.

North coast of the Snaefellsnes peninsula, the mountain of Kirkjufell (463 m) literally means "mountain of the church" in Icelandic and served as a landmark for Breton fishermen stopping in the small port of Grundarfjordur nearby.

Austurland region: Diamond beach, covered with fragments of ice thrown up by the rising tide on the volcanic sand beach near the Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon.

In the early morning, the crystalline purity of the blocks of ice sparkling under the gleams of dawn is a magical spectacle.

Coming out of the channel of Lake Jökulsárlón, the polished and translucent pieces of ice drift and eventually run aground and melt at low tide on the "Diamond Beach".

Coming out of the channel of Lake Jökulsárlón, the pieces of ice drift and end up stranding at low tide on “Diamond Beach”, whose real name is Fjellsfjara.

Coming out of the channel of Lake Jökulsárlón, the polished and translucent pieces of ice drift and eventually run aground and melt at low tide on the "Diamond Beach".

One of the glacial tongues of Vatnajökull, Breidamerkuryökull breaks up into icebergs on the surface of Lake Jökulsárlón. Ice floes drift into the ocean through a narrow channel, washing up on the beach and melting.

Huge blocks of ice covered with black slag from the last eruption of Eyjafjallajökull drift on a lake formed by the spectacular retreat of more than 1000 m of the Sólheimajökull glacier.

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Excursions with a guide are organized to walk on the Sólheimajökull glacier, covered with black slag from the last eruption of Eyjafjallajökull.

The black scoria-covered Sólheimajökull glacier front epitomizes Iceland's icy beauty with its vivid blue tones and mountainous backdrop. This glacier has retreated in a spectacular way by more than 1000 m in ten years to give way to a lake.

The front of the Sólheimajökull glacier, covered with black slag from the last eruption of Eyjafjallajökull located a few kilometers away. This glacier has retreated in a spectacular way by more than 1000 m in ten years to give way to a lake. .

Reynisfjara is a sandy beach located right next to the fishing village of Vík. These impressive hexagonal columns are basalt columns, called Garðar. These basalt pillars can reach 20 meters in height.

Reynisfjara Beach is one of the most visited sites in Iceland, renowned for its fantastic black sand beaches, arches and rocks in the ocean.

Reynisfjara is a black sand beach located right next to the fishing village of Vík. Nearby rise a few columns of lava sculpted by the ocean, the Reynisdrangar, which according to folklore are ancient trolls surprised by dawn outside their caves. Filming location for films and series (Game of Thrones, Star Trek, Star Wars...).

A 120m high promontory overlooks the cliffs and beach of Dyrhólaey near Vik, Iceland's southernmost point.

Rome 3280 km
Rio
2505 km
WIFI
Alice Springs 15032 Km
Camp-Kitchen
Kiel 2078 km
Panama
7572 Km

Route 1 or Ring Road is the main road in Iceland, 1,339 kilometers long. It goes around the country roughly following the coastline. In the background the red roof of the church of Skeiðflatarkirkja.

Icelandic horses on the south coast of the Snaefellsnes peninsula. The Icelandic is a small-sized saddle horse that forms the only horse breed originating in Iceland and has not undergone crossbreeding since the 900s. These animals are characterized by their great robustness and hardiness.

North coast of the Snaefellsnes peninsula, photo stop near Lake Selvallavatn. In autumn, Iceland has to be earned, the wind and the rain are our traveling companions!

Driving the Golden Circle route is the most popular way to get around Iceland. Route 54 (Snæfellsnesvegur) on the Snaefellsnes peninsula crosses a huge moss-covered lava field.

Route 54 (Snæfellsnesvegur) on the Snaefellsnes peninsula crosses a lunar landscape of huge lava fields. In autumn rain and squalls are frequent.

A short walk from the Golden Circle route is the magnificent Seljalandsfoss waterfall, 65m high.

The waterfall of Seljalandsfoss, has the particularity of being able to pass behind the waterfall by a slippery path but without major difficulties. It is one of the most impressive sites in the country.

After a few hours of lounging in the warm waters at 39°, the hotel infrastructure of the Blue Lagoon allows you to extend and admire this experience in the warmth behind the windows of the large dining room.

On the Reykjanes Peninsula, the Blue Lagoon is arguably Iceland's most popular attraction. Surrounded by lava fields, its warm turquoise waters attract bathers who come to relax in this 39° lagoon resulting from natural geothermal activity and whose color is due to the presence of silica.

Surrounded by lava fields, the Blue Lagoon spa reveals hot water lakes and channels from a nearby geothermal power plant. The singular blue color is due to the presence of silica whose properties are beneficial for skin diseases.

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