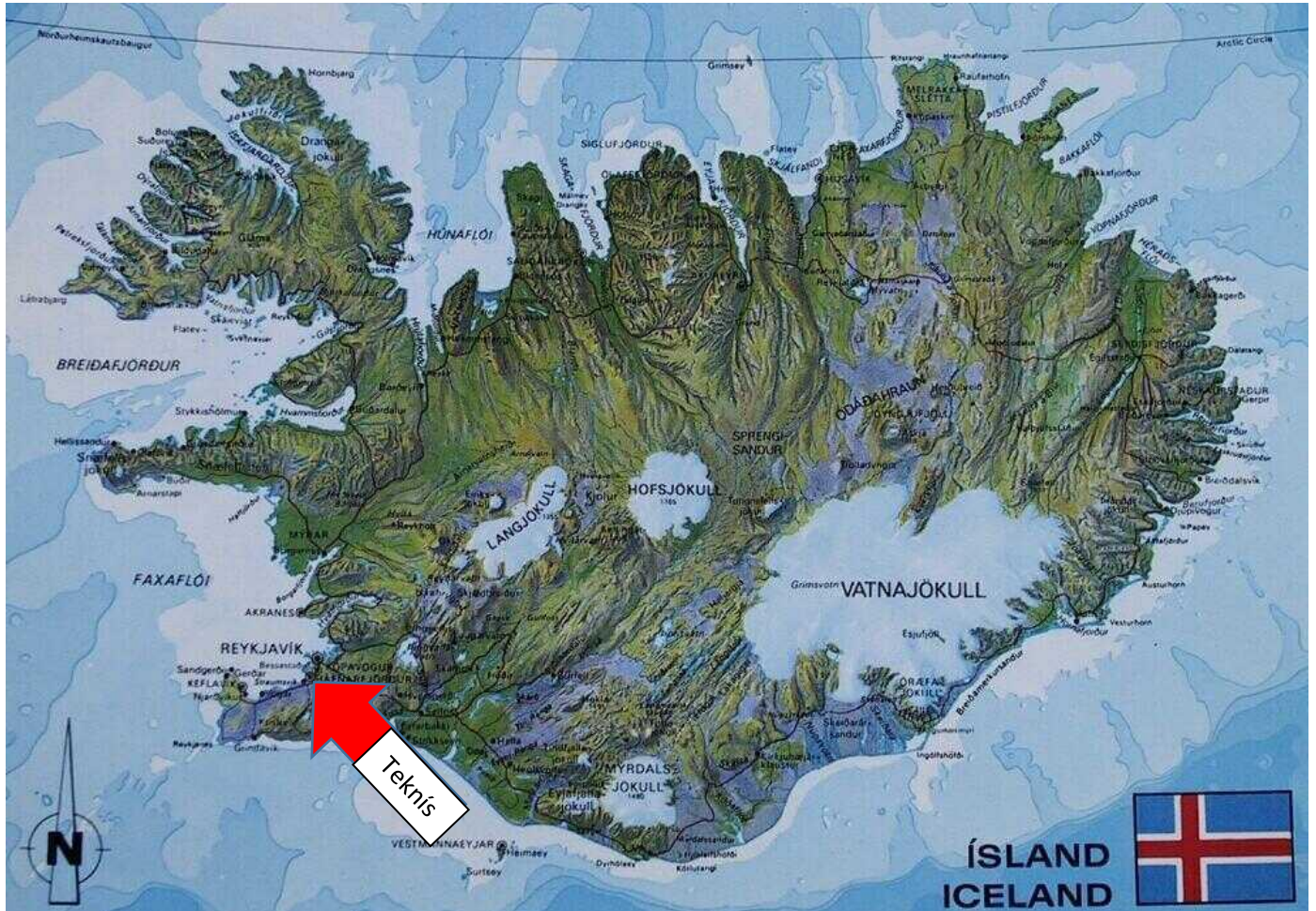


# Iceland

My Erasmus+ trip

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## 1. A few words to get started

When I first started in school, august the 15<sup>th</sup>, I had no idea, that I would get to experience something this great, as a financed trip to Iceland through the program Erasmus+.

Of course, it was not a trip purely for pleasure, which means that the purpose of all of it, was to hone our skills in our trade and to put us out to stand on our own feet.

Luckily, we did get some time to experience Iceland itself, plus to go out to be social with the Icelandic residents. One big plus, was that one of the two carpenters that I shared a house with, had some connections in Iceland, which was a Big help in every way. Do not worry, I will tell you about this later on.

Now, this section is not intended to tell you everything, nor reveal too much of the fun, so I will get going, and start to actually tell you about My experience and version of the trip.

## 2. The journey to Iceland

So, as you can probably guess from the title of this section, it will be about the glorious journey all the way from Fredericia in Denmark, to our house in Kópavogur, Iceland, that we rented through Airbnb.

After takeoff from Kastrup airport, Copenhagen.

Sadly, I did not think about taking an abundance of photos in the beginning, plus I also only had my phone with me, which unfortunately does not have the best built-in camera.



The start of the most wonderful two weeks, started off from the train station in Fredericia, where all of us, which were a total of eight students, got on the train heading towards Kastrup airport.

I must admit, that I had some fears about the travel itself. For example, if we were to miss our flight or if the flight would be cancelled. All of those thoughts were tumbling around in my head, but it did not take up all of the space in the top floor. Of course and not surprisingly, I had quite a lot of thoughts and imaginations of how it would all be in Iceland. The people, the culture, how they work at the company, what the employees at Teknís would be like and what we would get to experience. All of this, would start to get revealed and unravel after nothing more than a total of approximately 7 ½ - 8 hours with train and airplane.

### 3. Teknís ehf. in all its glory

This is the goldmine, and what I will primarily focus on, as written in my synopsis.



In the picture above, you see the view that I had every day, from the front door of Teknís.

The company was only a short distance away from our house, yet it would take a long time to get there, if we had to get there by bus. The very first day of the two weeks, we were so lucky to get driven there by Laila, the same route that the bus would take, so we could more easily find our way from that day and forth.

When we arrived at the company, they welcomed us with open arms and already at that very moment, I got a really good impression about the employees and the company overall.

We sat down and had a talk with the boss Jón, to talk about what to expect and where he got the chance to show us some of the work, that they had done previously.

Right after the talk with Jón, it was time for a coffee break, so one could say that we started out in an easy pace. Definitely no stress was to gain :D After the short break, Bo and I had to go with one of the other employees called Thór, to get some safety shoes as well as a box full of coveralls, so we had some of their branded new equipment.



When we finally were to start on our first project in their lovely, highly modern and clean workshop (which was sarcasm), we were told that we should stick with one other employee called Pétur.

Following, is a couple of pictures showing some of the projects that we were helping with:



The very first part that we made together with Pétur.

The bigger of two hatches for a water plant



The same part, but with a bit more added.

Now for the second of the two hatches:



To the left, you see Bo about to electrode weld the inner frame, and to the right you see Pétur, paying a lot of attention to Bo's work in progress.

I had my concerns about just how much they would let us do, but to my relief, they let us do basically everything, with Pétur watching over our shoulders from time to time.

We got to be a part of every process (of what we had time to, during our limited stay in Iceland). So, we were not only welding, but also had a shot with acid-treatment after we were done with welding the pieces.

On the next page, you will see two pictures of the bigger piece, after the acid did its wonders.





Here you can see where the acid was applied, but not so many details without looking after closely.



A close-up of a supporting piece for the smaller part above, that is used for attachment. Both were welded on separately.

Now for the second, smaller piece of the two hatches:



Front, before.



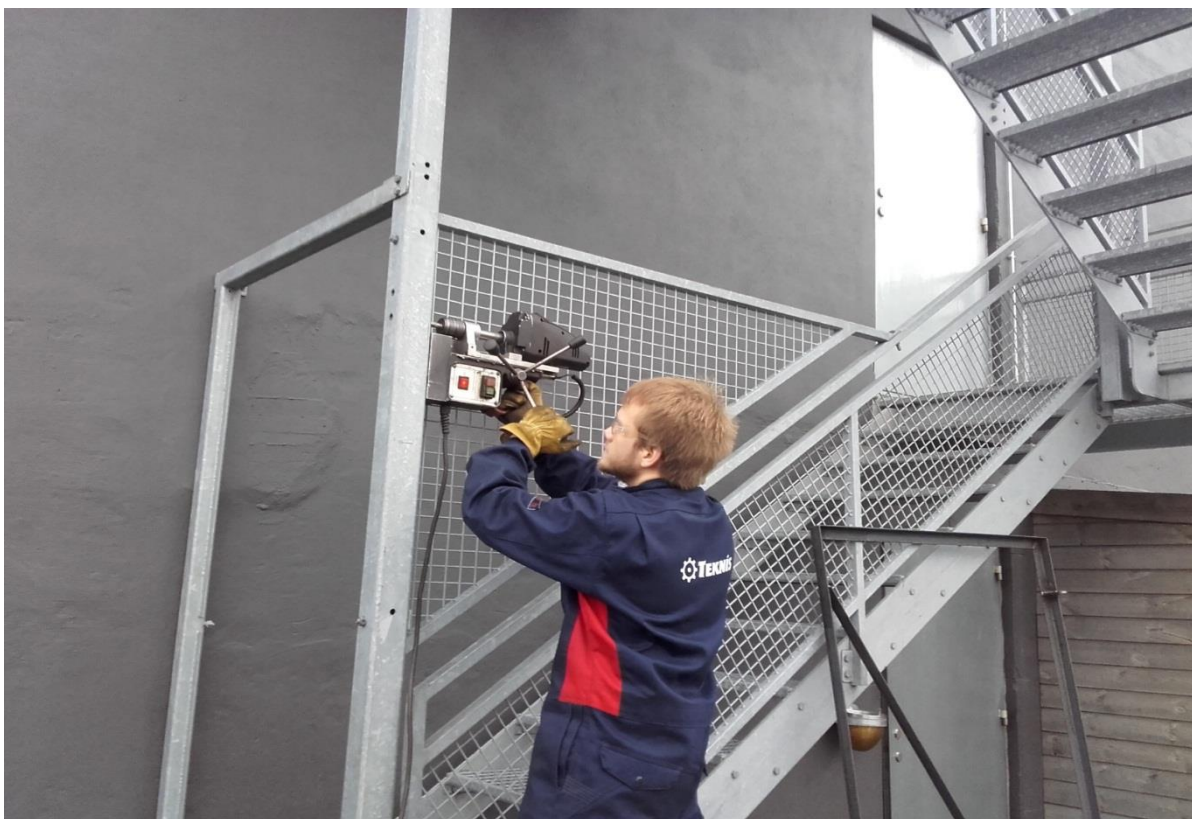
Front, after.

After we were done with the two hatches, it was time to start on a new project, which was a door for a hostel. This time, the frame of the door was already made by Pétur, but we had the pleasure of going with him out to the place for measuring, where it was going to be installed.





Picture of the site where the door was to be installed.



Picture of me, drilling holes for the door.



Important to check if it aligns up properly.



Making some minor adjustments





Time to get down and dirty with the fence.



Well done, Bo and me!

Large picture of the front of the door.

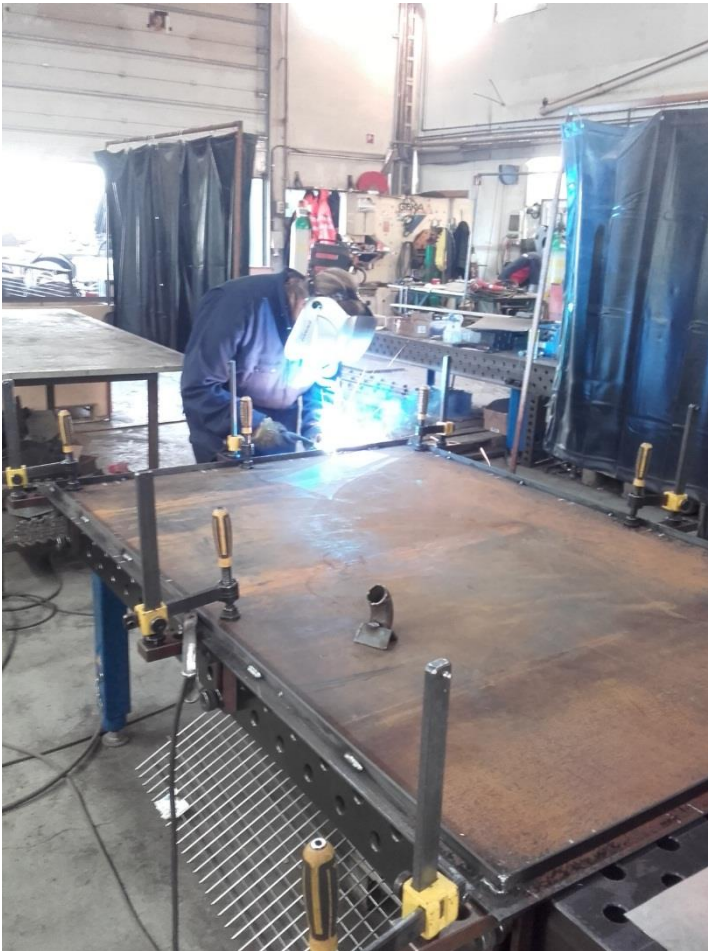


Two close-up pictures for more detail





So, it's time for the last piece that we managed to finish, during our lovely trip.



Bo spot welding the frame for another hatch, for a different location than the previous two.

And of course, a proper job does not go without having its own set of challenges, to throw at your face. Nothing else but a "small" gap that had to be closed. This little hiccup, is the result of poor work drawings that we had to deal with

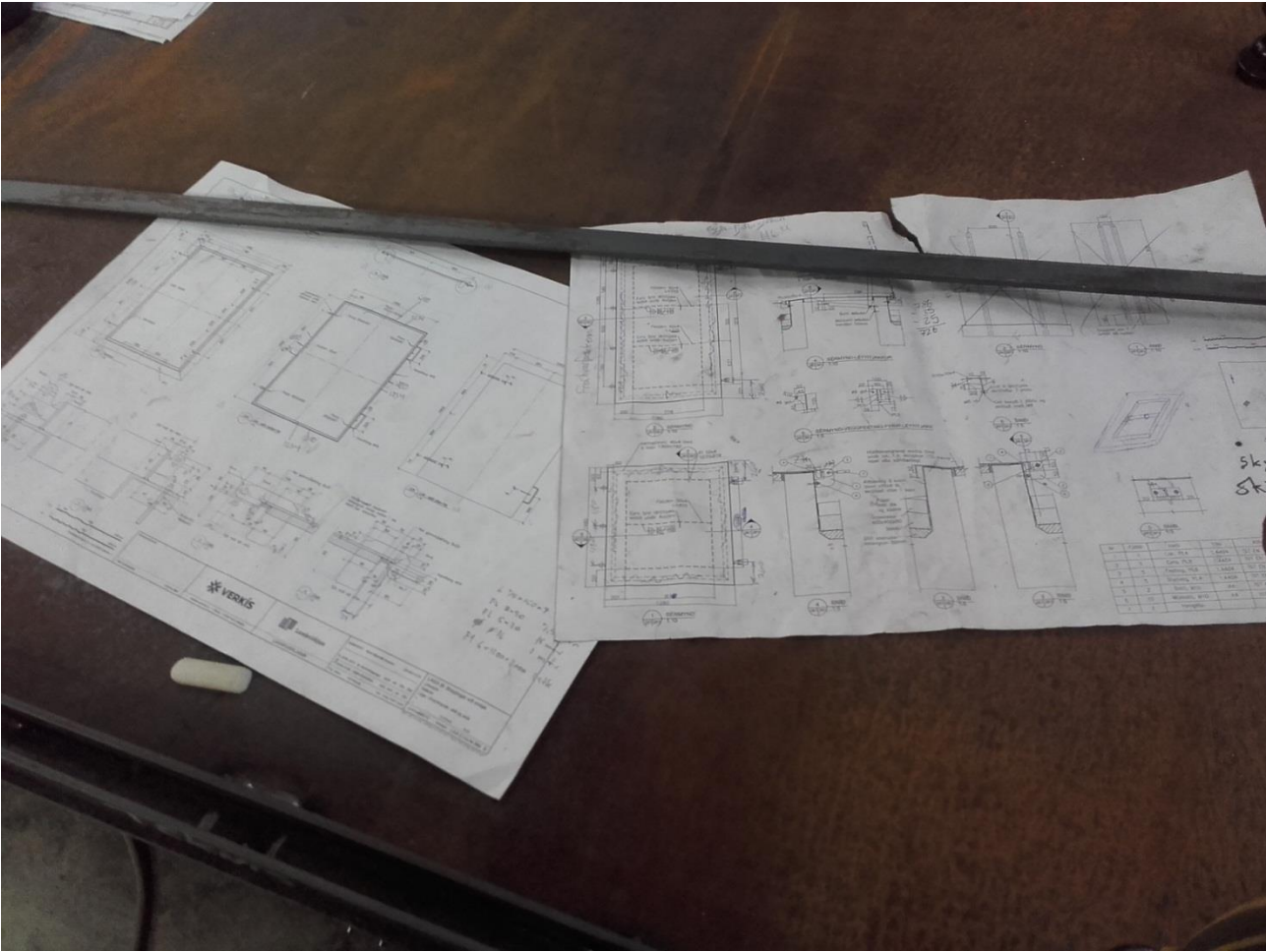


Before



After

Let me show you, just how bad drawings we had to work with.



#### 4. Social time

Of course, it was not all just work, work, work. Bo and I were some of the lucky ones, when it came down to our workhours.

It wasn't always easy to coordinate social time with everyone. Since four of the other students were located further up north, in a different house than ours, we only managed to meet each other three times during our trip. Late during one of the weekdays, the four other guys came to visit us at our house, for the sake of just hanging out and talking a bit about our experiences so far.



One day, we all individually asked our boss and got permission to take the day off, so we could go on a long trip, that would consume nearly the entire day. Amongst all of us, including the Icelandic people that one of the carpenters know, we discussed what we should go out to see and experience.

We ended up deciding on going on the popular tourist route called “the golden circle”. We did not take the entire tour, which is a total of roughly 300 kilometers, although we managed to see the most common tourist attractions. Not only that, but also a smaller waterfall, created by the result of the tectonic plates ripping apart, shifting away from each other, creating a quite magnificent sight for the eyes.

Not only did we enjoy time with each other on this long and wonderful trip, but also took our time during the weekend, to go to downtown Reykjavik for experiencing the nightlife, and to see how the Icelandic people party.

Surprisingly, we spend a lot of time with those Icelandic people, which turned out to be a huge advantage and extra comfort, as in we could always ask them for tips, help or simply just for company. Quite often, they all or some of them came over to our house, just to hang out with us for some quality time.

We went out to eat a couple of times together, and one evening we supplemented up with a round of bowling afterwards. Social time did of course not come without its obstacles. Once, we needed the two cars that we had available, plus the one that the Icelandic people drove in. The thing is, that the only one of the other four-man group, that lived up further north, that had a driver license, did not want to go with us to the chosen place where we would eat, but wanted to come with us later on to go bowling. After a stress-filled period, we found a solution although it was not the most optimal one.

All in all, I do not complain about the social part of the trip.



## 5. Time to go home

Inevitably the hours, days and two puny weeks passed almost with a blink of our eyes, and the sad but brutal time had arrived: time to leave Iceland, the wonderful people and the beautiful nature behind, to go back to Denmark and school. Of course, I did miss home a bit, but I would certainly not have complained, if we got to stay for just another week or even longer.

The last day or two, before we had to go to the airport, felt kind of strange. You could almost feel the atmosphere changing, but I think we all tried to hide at least in some degree, of how sad we all were. I know that I was, but that is because I would leave behind something, someone more than the other Danish guys would. One of the Icelandic girls that I/we got to know, had stolen my attention. We got to see each other quite often during my trip there, since she is also in family with the other Icelandic people, which is also the way we got to see each other the first time around.

The last day where we had to say “see you”.

Once again, our Icelandic friends came for a visit, that would be their last, while we were in Iceland, before the day would eventually come where we had to go our separate ways. With the time spend on relaxing and just pure quality time where we could enjoy each other’s company, the day passed us by faster than we would have liked.

We were so lucky, that one of the Icelandic people was so generous and kind, that she agreed to drive us to the airport, even though we had to be there very early in the morning. It was not the biggest car, so we ended up sitting quite crammed in there together. Not that we complained – otherwise we would have had to take a taxi or the bus or something like that. Once again, the Icelandic people step up and show just how great they are!

All things went quite smoothly on our way to the airport and forward. Arrived at the airport in good time, checked in and got our luggage through the terminal with no trouble, and got through the security check even smoother. We still had some time left, so we found a place to get something to eat that would count as our breakfast. There was no delays or troubles with the airplane we had to go with, and even the flight itself was without any difficulties.



## 6. Wise words as an ending

The time passed, and so many memories created and shared with a bunch of wonderful people. Overall, the experience that I had gained, far surpassed my expectations beyond my imagination and the thoughts that I had, the very first day from whence we were on our way from Fredericia train station.